



**Student Representative Assembly Meeting 21G
Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 5:00pm (EDT)
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: Baig, Balassone, Behravan, Chan, Chelverajah, Chen, Della-Vedova, Devarapalli, Dhiloon, Fernandes, Fleming, He, Khan, Laing, Liu, Matsuba, McCauley, Mehta, Pereira, Sharia, Sheikh, Song, Teel
Absent Excused: Jayachandran
Absent:
Late: Choi, Chui
Others Present: Armin Sariaslani (AVP Internal Governance), Simranjeet Singh (AVP Services), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary)
Chair: Zoe Tsai

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 Pereira, **seconded** by Fleming that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Della-Vedova, **seconded** by Baig that the assembly amend the agenda to add the Equitable Purchasing and BDS Statement as Business Item #7.

- Della-Vedova acknowledged it was circulated a bit late but felt it beneficial to be added so it could be worked on.
- Baig noted the memo was circulated and felt it important to be discussed and hopefully pushed forward.

Vote on Motion

Motion Passes by General Consent

Vote to Adopt

Moved by Pereira, **seconded** by Fleming that the assembly adopt the agenda for SRA 21G, as amended.

Motion Passes by General Consent

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Baig, **seconded** by Della-Vedova that the Assembly adopt the minutes of SRA meeting 21F – July 18, 2021, as circulated.

Vote on Motion

Motion Passes by General Consent

Announcements from the Chair

- The Speaker welcomed everyone to SRA meeting 21G. They reminded Assembly members to mute themselves if they were not speaking and to turn on their video if they were speaking for the sake of the live stream. The Speaker reminded that non-SRA members would need an SRA member to yield their time to them. The Speaker reminded all non-Assembly members to fill out the Observer’s List. The Speaker noted the meeting was being recorded as a backup to the live stream.

Report Period

1. Arts & Science Caucus – Mehta presented

- Mehta summarized the report.

2. Business Caucus – report circulated

- Laing summarized the report.

3. Engineering Caucus – McCauley presented

- McCauley summarized the report.

4. Internal Governance Committee – Armin Sariaslani presented

- Armin Sariaslani summarized the report.

5 Services Committee – report circulated

- Simranjeet Singh summarized the report.

6. Executive Board – report circulated

- Chui summarized the report.

7. President Report – report circulated

- Della-Vedova summarized the report.

7. Elections – report circulated

Business

1. Ratification of DRO and CRO

Moved by Devarapalli, **seconded** by Dhiloon that the Assembly ratify Brian Zheng as the Chief Returning Officer and Catherine Hu as the Deputy Returning Officer of the MSU Elections Department for the 2021-2022 term.

- Dhiloon noted that both the CRO and DRO seemed great and felt they would do a good job.

Vote on Motion

Motion Passes by General Consent

2. Proposed waiving of section 3.1 in Bylaw 7/A – Electoral Procedures

Moved by Della-Vedova, **seconded** by Teel that the Assembly waive the requirement of physical signatures, but still being endorsed by fellow students, while accepting nominations in section 3.1 of Bylaw 7/A – Electoral Procedures due to COVID-19, and having to accept nomination packages electronically for the 21/22 academic year.

- Della-Vedova advised that not all students were on campus which made obtaining physical signatures difficult. They added that this motion allowed students who were not on campus the ability to participate.
- Teel noted this was a good move for accessibility.

Vote on Motion

Motion Passes by General Consent

3. Open SRA Seats on SRA Standing Committees

Moved by Della-Vedova, **seconded** by Chui that the Assembly open nominations for the following SRA seats on Standing Committees:

- Provincial and Federal Affairs (1)
- Services (1)
- University Affairs (1)

- Della-Vedova noted these seats needed to be filled and believed there were nominations for each.
- Chui advised they would like to open the seats and follow through with the process.

Vote on Motion

Motion Passes by General Consent

4. Open SRA Seats on Other Committees

Moved by Baig, **seconded** by Chui that the Assembly open nominations for the following SRA seats on Other Committees:

- Elections (1)
- Information Technology Student Advisory (1)

- Chui advised they wanted to open the seats to those who were interested.

Vote on Motion

Motion Passes by General Consent

5. Close SRA Seats on SRA Standing Committees

Moved by Baig, **seconded** by Chan that the Assembly close nominations for the following SRA seats on Standing Committees:

- Provincial and Federal Affairs (1)
- Services (1)
- University Affairs (1)

Nominations:

- Dhiloon nominated themselves for the Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee.
- Chui nominated themselves for the Services Committee.
- Baig nominated themselves for the University Affairs Committee.

Vote on Motion

Motion Passes by General Consent

- Dhiloon won the SRA seat on the Provincial and Federal Affairs Committee by acclamation.
- Chui won the SRA seat on the Services Committee by acclamation.
- Baig won the SRA seat on the University Affairs Committee by acclamation.

6. Close SRA Seats on Other Committees

Moved by Chui, **seconded** by Chan that the Assembly close nominations for the following SRA seats on Other Committees:

- Elections (1)
- Information Technology Student Advisory (1)

- Chui advised Assembly members to nominate themselves if they were interested.
- Chan did not have anything to add.

Nominations:

- Pereira nominated themselves for the Elections Committee.
- Fleming nominated themselves for the Information Technology Student Advisory Committee.

Vote on Motion

Motion Passes by General Consent

- Pereira won the SRA seat on the Elections Committee by acclamation.
- Fleming won the SRA seat on the Information Technology Student Advisory Committee by acclamation.

7. Equitable Purchasing and BDS Statement

Moved by Della-Vedova, **seconded** by Baig that the McMaster Students Union adopts the following statement:

Whereas, the SRA denounces all forms of Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and prejudice experienced by students, across our diverse community; and

Whereas, the SRA will continue to uphold the beliefs and values of its student body, both as representatives as well as through all our systems for student engagement such as general assembly; and

Whereas, through General Assembly in 2015 the MSU was tasked to “Recognize that the continued occupation of Palestinian land and suppression of their fundamental human rights; Join other student organizations around the world by endorsing the 2005 call for Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions called for by 170 different groups representing the Palestinian Civil Society; and

Commit to identifying and divesting from companies that support or profit from Israeli war crimes, occupation and oppression of Palestinians; and

Affirm that students have a vital role in supporting struggles for social justice and human rights, stand in solidarity with Palestinians’ struggle for self-determination and freedom; and

Commit to ethical purchasing policies and fair trade practices around the globe through the renewal and review of the MSU’s Social and Ethical Purchasing Policy and procedures.”; and

Whereas, the SRA denounces the violence imposed upon the people of Palestine; and

Whereas, the MSU has already stopped purchasing from, and will continue to refrain from purchasing from Dell, HP, IBM, Electronic Data Systems, Formula Systems, Matrix and Motorola; therefore

Be it resolved that the SRA will continue to support all students in the MSU community while amplifying their voices, **be it further**

Resolved, that the MSU will explore an equitable purchasing policy during fall 2021 to encompass both prior sentiments expressed by students and to further their commitment to fair, equitable and harm free trade through selective purchasing, **be it further**

Resolved, The MSU will publicly share companies which it has made conscious efforts to avoid due to misalignment with the motion passed at GA 2015 and this motion.

Amendment

Moved by Mehta, **seconded** by Della-Vedova that the equitable purchasing and BDS statement be amended as follows:

Whereas, the SRA denounces all forms of Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and prejudice experienced by students, across our diverse community; and

Whereas, the SRA continues to unequivocally condemn hatred and harassment towards all students, regardless of faith; and

Whereas, The SRA will continue to uphold the beliefs and values of its student body, both as representatives as well as through all our systems for student engagement such as general assembly; and

Whereas, through General Assembly in 2015 the MSU was tasked to “Recognize that the continued occupation of Palestinian land and suppression of their fundamental human rights; Join other student organizations around the world by endorsing the 2005 call for Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions called for by 170 different groups representing the Palestinian Civil Society; and

Commit to identifying and divesting from companies that support or profit from Israeli war crimes, occupation and oppression of Palestinians; and

Affirm that students have a vital role in supporting struggles for social justice and human rights, stand in solidarity with Palestinians’ struggle for self-determination and freedom; and

Commit to ethical purchasing policies and fair-trade practices around the globe through the renewal and review of the MSU’s Social and Ethical Purchasing Policy and procedures.”; and

Whereas, the SRA denounces the violence imposed upon the people of Palestine; and

Whereas, the MSU has already stopped purchasing from, and will continue to refrain from purchasing from Dell, HP, IBM, Electronic Data Systems, Formula Systems, Matrix and Motorola; therefore

Be it resolved that the SRA will continue to support all students in the MSU community while amplifying their voices; **be it further**

Resolved, that the MSU will explore expanding its current sustainability policies to create an equitable purchasing

specific policy over the fall 2021 semester to encompass both prior sentiments expressed by students and to further their commitment to fair, equitable and harm free trade through selective purchasing; **be it further Resolved**, the MSU will publicly share companies which it has made conscious efforts to avoid due to misalignment with the motion passed at GA 2015 and this motion; **be it further Resolved**, the MSU will add “Antidiscrimination” and/or “Violence, Discrimination, & Harassment” training modules to equity and inclusion training for all part-time and full-time MSU staff and volunteers as to combat anti-Semitism and Islamophobia; **be it further Resolved**, the MSU will disseminate via social media, through clubs and services, specific on campus resources and organizations that support different faith-based identities.

Discussion on Amendment

- Mehta advised that they and Della-Vedova had been working on this amendment. They added that from consultations with constituents along with recommendations from McMaster Hillel and SPHR that were heard from their presentations, they felt it would be great to include more tangible action items in the statement to prevent discrimination. They also felt it would be beneficial to have supports available to individuals who would be potentially discriminated based on the passing of the motion. Mehta informed that the following sections were added to the statement:
 - **“Whereas, the SRA continues to unequivocally condemn hatred and harassment towards all students, regardless of faith; and”**
 - **“Resolved, that the MSU will explore expanding its current sustainability policies to create an equitable purchasing specific policy over the fall 2021 semester to encompass both prior sentiments expressed by students and to further their commitment to fair, equitable and harm free trade through selective purchasing; be it further”**
 - **“Resolved, The MSU will add “Antidiscrimination” and/or “Violence, Discrimination, & Harassment” training modules to equity and inclusion training for all part-time and full-time MSU staff and volunteers as to combat anti-Semitism and Islamophobia; be it further”**
 - **“Resolved, The MSU will disseminate via social media, through clubs and services, specific on campus resources and organizations that support different faith-based identities.”**

Vote on Amendment

Motion Passes by General Consent

Back to Main Motion

Moved by Della-Vedova, **seconded** by Baig that the McMaster Students Union adopts the following statement:

Whereas, the SRA denounces all forms of Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and prejudice experienced by students, across our diverse community; and

Whereas, the SRA continues to unequivocally condemn hatred and harassment towards all students, regardless of faith; and

Whereas, The SRA will continue to uphold the beliefs and values of its student body, both as representatives as well as through all our systems for student engagement such as general assembly; and

Whereas, through General Assembly in 2015 the MSU was tasked to “Recognize that the continued occupation of Palestinian land and suppression of their fundamental human rights; Join other student organizations around the world by endorsing the 2005 call for Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions called for by 170 different groups representing the Palestinian Civil Society; and

Commit to identifying and divesting from companies that support or profit from Israeli war crimes, occupation and oppression of Palestinians; and

Affirm that students have a vital role in supporting struggles for social justice and human rights, stand in solidarity with Palestinians’ struggle for self-determination and freedom; and

Commit to ethical purchasing policies and fair-trade practices around the globe through the renewal and review of the MSU's Social and Ethical Purchasing Policy and procedures.”; and

Whereas, the SRA denounces the violence imposed upon the people of Palestine; and

Whereas, the MSU has already stopped purchasing from, and will continue to refrain from purchasing from Dell, HP, IBM, Electronic Data Systems, Formula Systems, Matrix and Motorola; therefore

Be it resolved that the SRA will continue to support all students in the MSU community while amplifying their voices; **be it further**

Resolved, that the MSU will explore expanding its current sustainability policies to create an equitable purchasing specific policy over the fall 2021 semester to encompass both prior sentiments expressed by students and to further their commitment to fair, equitable and harm free trade through selective purchasing; **be it further**

Resolved, the MSU will publicly share companies which it has made conscious efforts to avoid due to misalignment with the motion passed at GA 2015 and this motion; **be it further**

Resolved, the MSU will add “Antidiscrimination” and/or “Violence, Discrimination, & Harassment” training modules to equity and inclusion training for all part-time and full-time MSU staff and volunteers as to combat anti-Semitism and Islamophobia; **be it further**

Resolved, the MSU will disseminate via social media, through clubs and services, specific on campus resources and organizations that support different faith-based identities.

- Della-Vedova advised they appreciated everyone’s effort in this motion. They added they took the recommendations of everyone involved, along with the outcome from the General Assembly in 2015 to craft the statement. They encouraged Assembly members to vote in favour with the amendments involved.
- Baig noted this had been in discussions for a while and good conversations with different groups were had.

Vote on Motion

Motion Passes by General Consent

Time of Next Meeting

September 26, 2021

5:00pm (EDT)

Remote Meeting, Microsoft Teams

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present:	Baig, Balassone, Behravan, Chan, Chelverajah, Chen, Choi, Chui, Della-Vedova, Devarapalli, Dhiloon, Fernandes, Fleming, He, Khan, Laing, Liu, Matsuba, McCauley, Mehta, Pereira, Sharia, Sheikh, Song, Teel
Absent Excused:	Jayachandran
Absent:	
Late:	
Others Present:	Armin Sariaslani (AVP Internal Governance), Simranjeet Singh (AVP Services), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary)
Chair:	Zoe Tsai

Adjournment

Moved by Della-Vedova, **seconded** by Chan that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion Passes by General Consent

Adjourned at 6:20pm

/ds