



Student Representative Assembly Meeting 221
Sunday, October 30, 2022 at 5:00pm (EDT)
Council Chambers, GH 111

Called to Order at 5:05pm

Call of the Roll

Present: Ahmad, Arora, Bizjak, Burton, Caputo, Dawdy, Garfield, German, Hannan, Hassan, Lee, Middaugh Cifuentes, Mothe, Pittari, Raza, Sivacjumar, Suganthan, Tadrus, Wang, Yeom

Absent Excused: Chui (Conference), Singh (Conference), Wong (Conference)

Absent: Chowdhry, Larrazabal Zea, Lum, Mannat

Late: Abdallah

Others Present: Eddy Su (McMaster Solar Car), Justin Phung (AVP (Services)), Sunehra Mehru (EWB), Sinduhja Bissoonauth (EWB), Patterson Patterson (MMB), Hayley Poon (MMB), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)

Chair: Piper Plavins (MSU Speaker)

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 Caputo, **seconded** by Middaugh Cifuentes that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Dawdy, **seconded** by German to add to Delegation from the Floor 'Engineers without Borders' and 'McMaster Marching Band'.

- Dawdy stated that they missed the document cut-off date but circulated everything before the meeting.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Dawdy, **seconded** by German to add to Business 'Committee of the Whole – EWB' and 'Committee of the Whole – MMB'.

- Dawdy stated that the Delegations would be the presentations, and this was to discuss the presentations.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Vote to Adopt

Moved by Caputo, **seconded** by Middaugh Cifuentes that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

Passes Unanimously

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Middaugh Cifuentes, **seconded** by Arora to adopt the minutes from SRA meeting 22H – October 16, 2022, as circulated.

Passes Unanimously

Announcements from the Chair

- The Chair welcomed everyone to meeting 22I and said that there were a lot of new faces joining. They asked for non-SRA members to please sign the Observer's List at the back of the room. The Chair reminded that SRA graphics for this meeting will be due Tuesday. They announced that all new SRA members have been added to the A2L classroom, and the deadline for training was November 13.

Delegations from the Floor

Set Parameters

Moved by Dawdy, **seconded** by Caputo to set parameters for all Delegations to be 10 minutes for presentations, and 10 minutes for questions.

Amendment

Moved by Arora, **seconded** by ____ to amend the timing for questions be five minutes.

Motion Fails due to no seconder

Vote on Parameters

Passes Unanimously

1. McMaster Solar Car – Eddy Su presented (presentation circulated)

- Su summarized the presentation.

Questions

- Dawdy stated that they noticed that Solar Car will not be competing until 2024 and that would be an eight-year gap between the last completed model. Dawdy asked Su to explain what was contributed. Su responded that the team before them couldn't agree on the design, and it was trashed. They explained that they are keeping up with the General Motors ideal, which is four years, since they had to start from scratch.
- Arora asked Su to explain why the final budget from 2021/2022 doesn't match the 2022 year. Su responded that their spending wasn't set as it depended on the vehicle. They explained that if the team couldn't complete their goal they couldn't spend the money, which is why it doesn't match.
- Tadrous asked if there were any plans of reimbursing students in case there was a surplus. Su responded that they're currently running at a deficit, and that if there were any excess funds it would be used for starting costs for the next teams.
- Raza stated that the previous team wasted time and materials. They asked what if this team did the same. Su stated that they were part of the team and they have spent a lot of their time on this, and wanted to see it through. They added that everyone on the team has put in too much effort.

- Suganthan asked for a breakdown of the costs and funding. Su responded that most of the funding comes from the students, and secondary funding comes from McMaster Engineering Society (MES).
- Pittari asked if there was a chance that the car could not run in 2024. Su responded in the affirmative.
- Suganthan asked how well McMaster has done in competitions. Su responded that they were first in Canada for one competition. They added that it wasn't just about competition, but that they've also covered a lot of student research.
- Caputo asked if Su would agree that the funding was more than just winning a competition and it was also to enhance student experience, as well as future careers. Su responded that a lot of students help to get the experience. They explained that everyone involved can gain some experience with circuits and simulations and gain valuable knowledge on how the car was made.
- Pittari asked how much funding comes from MES. Su responded that Solar Car received \$2,000 from MES this year.
- German asked for clarification about membership and if it was open to only Engineering students or open to all McMaster students. Su responded that it was open to all students, and it was dependent on the interest. They explained that it didn't matter if the student had any experience.
- German asked what the breakdown of student interest is from each faculty. Su responded that most are Engineering students, there are some Business students, and then Science.

2. **Engineers without Borders – Sunehra Mehrun and Sindhuja Bissoonauth (presentation circulated)**

- The members from Engineers without Borders summarized their presentation.

Questions

- Tadrus stated that EWB's budget was set but they requested another \$15,000. They asked what that money would go towards. Mehrun responded that their money goes towards the conference, as well as the junior fellowships.
- Abdallah asked if the fellowship was just for people from the McMaster Chapter. Mehrun stated that it would be open to everyone, and that the head office chooses who goes.
- Tadrus stated that the projected budget of the conference expenses is \$1,500. They asked since it was an event with multiple schools and other students would be paying for this. Bissoonauth responded that the event was just for MSU students, and would be paying for food. They added that the Speakers would be the only ones who would not be McMaster students.
- Arora stated that EWB would be spending almost 75% of their budget to send two members on the junior fellowship. They asked how this would be bringing value to McMaster. Mehrun responded that one of their co-presidents was selected for the fellowship in 2010, and that their experience was posted everywhere. Bissoonauth responded that these students would be working at the national office and would publish anything that the fellowship does.
- Pittari asked if EWB received any funding from the Head Office. Mehrun responded that this wasn't set in stone. They stated this was why they have the fundraisers to get most of their funding. Bissoonauth added that all chapters have access to funding applications for conferences.
- German thanked EWB for their presentation. They pointed out that the MSU was also an NPO, which is why they're making sure that everyone was being fiscally responsible. They asked if EWB has asked MES or any other communities for funding. Bissoonauth responded that they put through their applications but haven't received confirmations yet.
- Tadrus asked if EWB considered selling tickets for the conference to make some of the money back. Bissoonauth responded that they have considered this. Mehrun added that they know that other chapters are doing this for their conferences, and that they did consider having more youth involved in the conference as well.
- German asked for the breakdown for the junior fellowship program. Bissoonauth responded that the sum was requested by the national office and couldn't give the breakdown.

- Dawdy stated that their question was partially addressed in the Q&A document circulated and asked if EWB has reached out to other chapters to see how they've been securing other funding. Dawdy explained that it was only a matter of time before the costs of the fellowship overtakes the other initiatives. Bissoonauth responded that they will be working with Western and Guelph for fundraising events for their chapters and will be splitting the profits. Mehrun added that the national office gives out funding applications, which is available for participants.
- Yeom asked how the junior fellows were chosen. Bissoonauth responded that applications come from the head office, and that each chapter is limited to two picks.

Moved by Arora, **seconded** by Tadrous to extend questions by 10 minutes.

- Arora felt that more could be addressed, and 10 minutes would be good.
- Tadrous agreed.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Back to Questions

- Tadrous stated that EWB didn't spend much last year and asked what they were planning on doing with the extra funding. Bissoonauth responded that they did their budget on the funding they were planning on receiving. They explained that there are large costs for the fellowships and conference and would not be able to operate without said funding.
- Middaugh Cifuentes stated that they would like to see what other tangible benefits there are for sending students on fellowship, besides being an investment on exposure. Bissoonauth responded that they also receive partnerships interested in working with McMaster based on how these students worked in Africa and at the office. They explained that this helps build bridges and helps students who have plans to work internationally.
- Arora asked why EWB hasn't updated their website, despite the expenses towards advertisements. Mehrun responded that the national office was working on that, which is why the website was still under construction.
- Hannan asked if the other chapters are paying the same rates for the fellows or if there were different sponsorship plans. Mehrun stated that they believed it was all the same, as it was something the national office told them to do.
- Pittari asked what EWB was doing to make sure they were being useful for the entire McMaster Community. Bissoonauth responded that in terms of events, they would be using their funding to bring more awareness of the organization within the McMaster Community.
- Tadrous asked if EWB doesn't receive the additional 15,000 of funding, how would it impact the operations based on the money the group already has. Bissoonauth responded that it would make a difference for next year as the group would need more funding, as it would reduce the money EWB already has. They added that this would limit them in their conference planning with the number of Speakers being invited, and cutting back on giving to the students in terms of funding.
- Suganthan asked if they had the specific sponsors listed anywhere. Mehrun stated that they did not since last year was fully online.

3. McMaster Marching Band – Hayley Poon and Claire Patterson presented (presentation circulated)

- The members from McMaster Marching Band summarized the presentation.

Questions

- Dawdy asked if MMB have investigated charging McMaster for their services. They stated that there are a lot of open houses that create value and the group wasn't being compensated, with MSU members paying for the extra value. Patterson responded that they consider the outreach at McMaster to be charity efforts. They explained that most events are like this, but the Santa Claus parades allow it to be like this. Patterson added that if this increases the profile of the University, they hope there will be a trickle-down effect and get more funds by having higher enrollment.
- Pittari stated that there were a lot of unnecessary costs. They asked MMB to justify these costs, such as paying for Google. Patterson responded that they don't have access to a McMaster email and in order to carry over the documentation MMB needs a central Google platform. They added that it used to be free but Google did a business remodeling, and that they are looking into a different host.
- Tadrous asked about the digital storage amount and why MMB needed that much. Patterson responded that it was media costs. They explained that MMB was founded back in 2009 and they have a lot of items in their archives. Patterson added that this helps keep track of everything, and they don't need 50gb but that was the minimum service Google offered.
- Mothe asked if there were ways or methods to mitigate equipment costs. Patterson responded that MMB does try to get items second hand. They explained that they would exceed their projected costs if they bought new.
- Yeom asked if the damage deposit was given back at the end of the year to the members, and if the instrument broke would it be on the student to reimburse MMB. Patterson responded that every student pays \$40 as a deposit and it is returned if nothing gets broken or ruined intentionally. They explained that it is budgeted for.
- Raza asked about the Forge FC event, and if they received any revenue from that. Patterson responded that since this was an event there was a deposit. They explained that the payment system was that MMB buys tickets and then sells them to those interested. Patterson added that the only date they could get was the Sunday of the Fall Reading Week so they had to move the event, with no cost added.
- Dawdy asked about the ticket sales and how it would look for a McMaster group to be scalping tickets. Patterson explained that it was Forge FC that presented this option, and that most of the ticket sales would be to family and friends. They added that in terms of ethics, MMB was told to do this by the team and were given suggested costing on how to get money back.
- Raza asked how the tickets for the Forge FC game would be guaranteed revenue if MMB had to sell the tickets themselves. Patterson responded that there wasn't a guarantee and that they pushed it to 2023 so that they could have more members and interest in the events.
- Middaugh Cifuentes asked for a clarification on the circulated budget versus the total listed on the presentation. Patterson responded that the amount on the presentation was the correct amount.
- Pittari stated that other teams at McMaster pay a fee of \$1,000 each. They asked if any of the MMB members paying to be a part of this group. Patterson responded that the entire point of the band is to be accessible and didn't want to pass on costs to the members. They explained that this was for the sake of equality and giving equal opportunity.

Moved by German, **seconded** by Raza to extend questions by 10 minutes.

- German stated that they would like to ask a few more questions on funding.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Back to Questions

- Tadrous asked why MMB has budgeted \$10,000 for uniforms and instruments. They kept stating that it was a lot of money. Patterson responded that this is why they're able to do what they do and are open to

everyone. They stated that the instruments are expensive, and that buying the cost of something new could be \$1,000. Patterson explained that they gain more interest with having more people join. They added that there were a lot of people who would like to play the trumpet this year but MMB didn't have any trumpets in storage, so they try to allot the money to get a few. Patterson stated that this was the same with uniforms. They added that the budget from 2020 was different as they're transitioning back into in person events and they need more uniforms.

- German explained that instruments are expensive and are being rented out. They asked MMB if they were thinking of increasing the deposit. Patterson stated that this would be something they could consider but they don't want to dissuade students joining due to cost. Poon added that they did decrease the amount from \$100 during the pandemic as they couldn't always check them. Patterson explained that they now check the instruments once a week.
- German asked how students get involved, and how many members MMB has. Patterson responded that students can just walk on. They explained that they've been playing trombone since grade 6 but MMB's Communications Director just started learning trumpet. Patterson added that they have an accessibility mandate that they follow. They stated that they had 60 people interested during Clubs Fest, with roughly 40 members who come to every rehearsal and 20-30 at given events based on schedules.
- Tadrous asked what MMB's mission is. Patterson stated that they were there to give experiences and accessible music education. They stated that there are a lot of barriers these days and MMB have been trying to vie towards that and get more people involved. Patterson added that it is also to increase the profile of the University, and show alumni supports.
- Lee asked if MMB has looked into renting a place on campus, based on seeing the budget for rental. Patterson responded that there isn't any space on campus, but that the space in question may not be used but it's in the budget just in case.

Moved by Tadrous, **seconded** by Middaugh Cifuentes to extend questions by five minutes.

- Tadrous explained that they would like to ask a couple more questions.

Amendment

Moved by German, **seconded** by Caputo to amend the motion and exhaust the Speaker's List.

- German stated that it feels as though the SRA has been grilling MMB and felt that it would be nice to just exhaust the Speaker's List and move on to Business.
- Caputo agreed.
- Arora stated that they shouldn't exhaust the Speaker's List and that others should be able to add themselves.
- Yeom felt that this would be a lot of people to go through but would like to finish up with the questions.

Vote on Amendment

In Favour: 17 Opposed: 3 Abstentions: 0
Opposed: Yeom, Arora, Tadrous
Motion Passes

Vote on Motion

Moved by German, **seconded** by Caputo to exhaust the Speaker's List.

In Favour: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Opposed: Yeom, Arora, Tadrous, Lee
Motion Passes

Back to Questions

- Arora asked if MMB was doing anything for McMaster students on campus that was not sports. Patterson responded that they participated in the Fall Open House yesterday. They added that MMB was open to any other people who were looking to request them on campus.
- Ahmad asked if there was interest in charging members of MMB. Patterson responded that they're not limiting anyone and are spreading out the fees amongst everything.
- Suganthan asked if the \$40 covers the uniform purchases. Patterson responded that the uniforms are owned by the band, and are returned to MMB.
- Tadrous asked about increasing the membership fees so that the students could still participate, and more people would benefit from MMB. Patterson responded that MMB doesn't have membership fees. They explained that students pay the deposit and then that is given back when it has been determined nothing was lost. Patterson added that the biggest concern is complete accessibility. They explained that MMB doesn't have a membership fee to have it open to as many people as possible, and that MMB has had some members approach stating they couldn't even afford the deposit of \$40. Patterson added that they're looking for significant sponsorships and reaching out wherever they can but don't have anything concrete yet.

Moved by German, **seconded** by Raza to recess for 10 minutes.

- German stated that they've all been sitting for over two hours and thanked everyone for their resiliency. They felt that everyone would benefit from a break and to rest their minds.
- Raza agreed.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Recessed 7:10pm

Called to Order 7:23pm

Call of the Roll

Present: Abdallah, Ahmad, Arora, Bizjak, Burton, Caputo, Dawdy, Garfield, German, Hannan, Hassan, Lee, Middaugh Cifuentes, Mothe, Pittari, Raza, Sivacjumar, Suganthan, Tadrous, Wang, Yeom

Absent Excused: Chui (Conference), Singh (Conference), Wong (Conference)

Absent: Chowdhry, Larrazabal Zea, Lum, Mannat

Late:

Others Present: V. Scott (Recording Secretary)

Chair: Piper Plavins (MSU Speaker)

Report Period

1. First-Year Council – report not submitted

2. Business Caucus – report not submitted

- Dawdy updated the Assembly saying that the Business Caucus is coordinating with the Hamilton Food Share and the Community Fridge to do a food drive event. They added that the caucus was helping promote the DeGroote summit. Dawdy stated that one of their challenges is getting one more person to run for the final SRA Business seat.

Questions

- German asked if the caucus considered collaborating with Food Collective Centre. Pittari stated that they hadn't as they were trying to maximize sustainability and have the food go to as many communities as possible.

3. Engineering Caucus – report circulated

- Arora apologized for not circulating the report earlier. They summarized the report.

Questions

- Pittari asked Arora to expand on reaching out to constituents. Arora stated that they were planning on having a booth similar to the one during the Financial Transparency session. They added that constituents could go to the booths and speak to SRA members to gain ideas.

4. Internal Governance Committee – report not submitted

- German quickly updated the Assembly that the Committee was working on two policies: MSU Governance & You and Interfaith Council. They added that they will also be looking at Bylaw 2 – MSU Membership, but will be collaborating with quite a few people to make sure the changes are in line with the constitution. German stated that there have been bi-weekly check-ins with the AVP, and hopefully the report will be circulated at the next meeting.

5. Services Committee – report circulated

6. Executive Board – Wang presented

- Wang summarized the report.

7. Vice-President (Education) – report circulated

8. Elections Department – FYC Elections – report circulated

9. Vice-President (Finance) – report circulated

Information Period

- Arora stated that they forgot to mention that the Engineering Caucus was looking forward to the by-elections and having a complete caucus.

Question Period

- Yeom asked if there would be a way to get more representatives on the SRA from their program. They ceded their time to Scott. Scott responded that everything was outlined in Bylaw 3 on how a caucus could receive more members. She added that Yeom could come and speak with her after the meeting if they had more questions.

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. Committee of the Whole – McMaster Solar Car

Moved by Dawdy, **seconded** by German that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the McMaster Solar Car presentation.

- Dawdy explained how Committee of the Whole worked.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

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

- German stated that they have spoken at length about this, and it was time to move out.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Rise and Report

- German stated that the Assembly had an in-depth conversation about Solar Car and thanked everyone for their insights. German reported that they held a straw poll, and the majority didn't think that this was a wise use of funds through Ancillary Fees. They added that there were differing opinions, and some felt that this group would put McMaster on the map if everything was done well, while others felt that this was a niche group that hasn't used the money responsibly in the past.

Business

1. Committee of the Whole – Engineers without Borders

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

- Mothe stated that it would be good to move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the presentation.

Vote on Motion

In Favour: 20 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 0
Opposed: Raza
Motion Passes

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

Passes Unanimously

Rise and Report

- Dawdy stated that the Assembly had a lot of questions, specifically about the \$16,000 being used for the fellowship program as well as the selection process and guidance from Head Office for said program. They added that only some felt that there was value being created.

2. Committee of the Whole – McMaster Marching Band

Moved by Middaugh Cifuentes, **seconded** by Suganthan that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the McMaster Marching Band presentation.

- Middaugh Cifuentes stated that this will be a good discussion.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

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

Passes Unanimously

Rise and Report

- Dawdy stated that the Assembly discussed McMaster Marching Band, and there were a lot of diverse opinions. Dawdy reported that some members would like to do away with this all together, but the majority of the straw poll wanted to see recommendations and restructuring based on more cost control and revenue.

Time of Next Meeting

**November 13, 2022
5:00pm (EDT)
Council Chambers, GH 111**

Call of the Roll

Present: Abdallah, Ahmad, Arora, Bizjak, Burton, Caputo, Dawdy, Garfield, German, Hannan, Hassan, Lee, Middaugh Cifuentes, Mothe, Pittari, Raza, Sivacjumar, Suganthan, Tadrous, Wang, Yeom
Absent Excused: Chui (Conference), Singh (Conference), Wong (Conference)
Absent: Chowdhry, Larrazabal Zea, Lum, Mannat
Late:
Others Present: Justin Phung (AVP (Services)), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)
Chair: Piper Plavins (MSU Speaker)

Adjournment

Moved by German, **seconded** by Raza that the meeting be adjourned.

Passes Unanimously

Adjourned at 9:01pm

/vs