



Student Representative Assembly Meeting 23H
Sunday, October 15, 2023 at 5:00pm (EDT)
Council Chambers, GH 111

Called to Order at 5:06pm

Call of the Roll

Present: Abbott, Ahmad, Arora, Batusic, Begun, El-Kadi, Ellis, Gono, Hannan, John, Otchere, Pacheco, Popovic, Qannam, Samuels, Shouldice, Su, Suganthan, Thusyanthan, Wang, Yang, Zakkar

Absent Excused:

Absent: Dodd, Forbes, Khandelwal, Yao

Late:

Others Present: Aryan Patel (McMaster Solar Car), Mark Chen (McMaster Solar Car), Eddy Su (McMaster Solar Car), Sunehra Mehrun (Engineers Without Borders), Mahirah Rahman (Engineers Without Borders), Brenda Lin (Chief Returning Officer), Abdullah Masudi (MSU Member), Maheera Choudhury (AVP (Finance)), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary)

Chair: Aiman Dhiloon (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 Popovic, **seconded** by Abbott that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Otchere, **seconded** by Samuels to amend the agenda and move Business Items #1 and #2 to be directly after Delegations from the Floor.

- Otchere said that this would be beneficial so the groups presenting do not have to wait throughout other items on the agenda.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Samuels, seconded by Arora to amend the agenda to include the following motion as Business Item #4: "Moved by _____, seconded by _____ that the Assembly ratify the following names as delegates for the 2024 Fall OUSA General Assembly:

- Jovan Popovic
- Adam El-Kadi
- Kerry Yang
- Jazzlyn Abbott

- David Feboke
 - Abdullah Masudi
 - Aisha Mahmoud
 - Yaseen ~~Kahn~~Khan
 - Stephanie Henry
 - Leen Zakkar”
- Samuels noted they received an incredible number of qualified applications for the delegate positions. Samuels said they were very excited for the Fall GA and added that the Winter GA is being hosted at McMaster and noted there would be additional opportunities to get involved.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Vote to Adopt

Moved by Popovic, **seconded** by Abbott that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

Passes Unanimously

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Hannan, **seconded** by Abbott that the Assembly adopt the minutes from SRA meeting 23G – September 24, 2023, as circulated.

- Hannan said the minutes look great.

Vote to Adopt

Passes Unanimously

Announcements from the Chair

- The Chair welcomed everyone to SRA 23H. They advised that the by-elections are approaching soon. They added that they will send the schedule for recap graphics after this meeting.

Delegations from the Floor

Set Parameters

Moved by Otchere, **seconded** by El-Kadi that the Assembly set parameters for both delegations to be 10 minutes for presentation time, 15 minutes for questioning, and a 30-second response time per question.

- Otchere wanted to ensure enough time was given to each group.

Vote on Parameters

Passes Unanimously

1. Engineers Without Borders - Sunehra Mehrun and Mahirah Rahman presented

- Engineers Without Borders reviewed their presentation with the Assembly.

Questions

- Hannah asked for a breakdown on the \$2,000 allocated for swag and prizes. Mehrun said that last year, it was broken down in a few hundred dollar increments and said it was their most popular items.
- Batusic asked what is done for students outside of Engineering in terms of engagement. Rahman answered all that one does not have to be in Engineering to join the team and that this is promoted at their events.
- Arora asked the presenters to expand on the \$2,500 allocated towards the Sustainability Case Conference. Mehrun stated that they are doing something new this year, where it is a smaller case conference, and that funding will be used for swag and prizes. Mehrun said they are unsure if they'll need that much money though.
- Abbott asked who sets the budget for the Canada Africa Fellowship. Rahman answered that it is set by national office and either they provide it, or applicants fend for themselves.
- El-Kadi said it was not fiscally responsible to have that much for swag and prizes and asked for elaboration. Rahman answered that last year, they spent around \$4,000 and most of the money went towards prizes. They added that the budget outlined for the Sustainability Case Comp is a very rough number as it is their first time doing it.
- Yang asked about the Canada Africa Innovation Fellowship and if the funding received from student fees and the \$4,000 received from the MSU is a good use of student money to send to one or two people to Africa. Rahman answered that yes, it is a good use because when the fellow is in Africa they represent McMaster University internationally. Mehrun added that they do not plan on funding the entire trip this year and will ask national office to cover some of the cost.
- Hannan mentioned the leadership struggles in recent years and asked if they have something set up to ensure they don't face this issue again. Rahman answered that they did create a computer drive that contains all the resources and that it's been a much smoother transition this year. Mehrun added that they are much more organized with their finances/budget.
- El-Kadi asked what has been done differently than previous years in terms of garnering funds. Rahman said most comes from donations and sponsorships and last year was harder to make these connections as it was their first year back in person, but believed they had a better base to rely on this year.
- Yang stated that based on what they saw on Instagram, the Canada Africa Innovation Fellowship has turned into a start-up venture and thought they were trying to turn a profit. They asked how this relates to trying to benefit the local community. Rahman answered they are not sure how the start-up is working and added that a lot has not been done, it is just in the talks. Rahman added they have been looking for charities to donate to that align with EWB missions.
- Zakkar stated from their understanding they had money left over from last year asked where the extra money they are requesting this would go. Rahman said that last year, they started off with \$20,000 due to Covid and because no money was touched, they were able to spend the entire \$12,000 on one fellow. They said that they are starting off with \$16,000 this year and noted that whatever they have listed in their budget is probably not accurate as they are looking for sponsors. Rahman added they are asking for \$4,000 because they are starting with \$16,000 and if they spend everything, they will be \$4,000 behind.
- Hannan brought up concerns about their parent organizations' ethics/direction and asked if this organization helps them in fundraising. Rahman answered that they are normally supposed to help. They added that they are supposed to have an annual fundraiser, but it did not happen last year and they didn't think it was happening this year. Rahman added they are supposed to assist with larger fundraising events. They noted that national office visited them last year to go over pros and cons.
- Samuels asked for them to expand on Hill Day. Rahman said they thought it would be sustainability-related and noted there is an information session on Wednesday where they will learn more about what will be discussed.
- Hannan asked about the election process for members. Mehrun answered that everyone fills out an application which they go through with their VPs. They added that interviews are held for some roles. Rahman added that for the President position, one applies on their own and the VPs vote for it. They added that VPs are elected through submitted applications.
- Yang stated it was hard to believe that there are fiscally responsible choices being made as there is so much student money going into the fellowship. They asked for clarification on the fellowship. Rahman

answered that \$12,000 spent on one person is a lot and added that a discussion definitely needs to be had with national office.

- Hannan asked how the President and Vice-President positions are being advertised. Mehrun answered they are posted on Instagram and advertised at events.
- El-Kadi asked about their strategies on how to obtain sponsorships. Rahman answered that they prepare a sponsorship package that is then sent out in a mass email.
- Otchere asked how many sponsors they received last year. Mehrun answered they received two last year.
- Thusyanthan asked if there is a reason that the fellow is sent to Africa specifically or if they have considered sending them to a closer nation that still falls within their mission. Rahman answered that they are unsure as to why it is Africa specifically. They added that this has been brought up to national office and that the new CEO is trying to expand from Africa.
- John asked what efforts have been taken to reach out for sponsors. Rahman answered that they have been to industry nights where sponsorship directors network and market their mission.
- Batusic asked what is meant by the term 'chapters'. Mehrun answered that it refers to each different University.

2. McMaster Solar Car – Eddy Su and Mark Chen presented

- McMaster Solar Car reviewed their presentation with the Assembly.

Questions

- Samuels asked what they feel that students stand to gain with Solar Car existing. Su answered they've been representing McMaster in competitions since the early 1990s. They added that previous managers have shown them ads of Solar Car in the Toronto Transit Commission and that the Solar Car competition is what every larger engineering school attends.
- Hannan asked if a date has been set for their information session. Su answered that it's already been held. They added that they are attending McMaster Engineering Clubsfest and that they couldn't attend the MSU Clubsfest as their executives were either on co-op or sick. Su added they intend to participate in future ones and are also in talks with other organizations to conduct outreach.
- El-Kadi asked how ready they felt for next year's competition. Su answered they are very confident that the car will race in 2024 and that the new team is working very hard on the project.
- Thusyanthan asked for an explanation on why the ASC Registration cost is \$13,000 and if it was a good use of student funding. Su answered that the cost is non-negotiable and it was not up to them. They said they do track and road racing and need access to public roads, along with contacting park officials, to be able to secure positions to race in. Su added that they also rent the whole track (NASCAR tracks) for the entire week.
- Batusic asked how many years the recent car has been in progress. Su answered it has been in progress for four years and they have taken many steps to ensure the new team can keep up.
- Hannan asked if they've done anything to create space for students outside of engineering. Su answered that they've done posters across campus which specify that one doesn't have to be an engineering student or have engineering experience to participate, it could simply be a hobby.
- Thusyanthan asked if the \$16,000 in funding from the Engineering faculty noted in their budget has been confirmed. Su answered they have a meeting with faculty funding next week and cannot give a definitive answer yet, but added that typically, they are very stable and said there's a very high chance they will get it.
- Samuels asked what they have done to mitigate team issues. Su answered the team started back up in 2019 to build this car and back then, there was little documentation and a lot less people to help. They added that team documentation is the most important thing, as well as the verbal transfer of knowledge. Su added that they are doing a lot more this time around, including requiring every team lead to write down procedures as well as creating videos and detailed roadmaps.
- Otchere asked them to continue their answer from the previous question. Su added that they have learnt from past experience to keep at least one car and be able to join a competition.

- Hannan asked about the value of working on the car aside from racing it. Su answered that working on the car is where the most knowledge is gained. They added that racing it would improve McMaster's image.
- Popovic asked how the budget is affected given the materials from a previous car cannot be used. Su clarified that the previous cars' parts will not be destroyed, but rather transferred to the new car or used elsewhere.

Business

1. Committee of the Whole – Engineers Without Borders

Moved by Otchere, **seconded** by El-Kadi that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the Engineers Without Borders presentation.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Moved by Samuels, **seconded** by Otchere that the Assembly move out of Committee of the Whole and into Rise and Report.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Rise and Report

- Samuels reported that a lot of discussion was had in good faith in an attempt to produce value for students. They noted a few internal issues and overall concerns and that EWB will require more work and structural change to have their execution and plan become synonymous. They noted that Hannan and Yang spoke to EWB going to referendum in the past but having it fail due to lack of quorum.

2. Committee of the Whole – McMaster Solar Car

Moved by Otchere, **seconded** by El-Kadi that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the McMaster Solar Car presentation.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Moved by Otchere, **seconded** by Abbott that the Assembly move out of Committee of the Whole and into Rise and Report.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Rise and Report

- Zakkar reported that Solar Car has improved from last year as they are more transparent and seemed confident in both their presentation and answers. They added that previous concerns seem to be resolved and that they are including different faculties in their work. Zakkar added that the results of their work can be seen through their co-op placements.

Report Period

1. **Science Caucus – Arora presented**
 - Arora summarized the report.
2. **Social Sciences Caucus – Wang presented**
 - Wang summarized the report.
3. **Municipal Affairs Committee – Yang presented**
 - Yang summarized the report.
4. **Executive Board – Ahmad presented**
 - Ahmad summarized the report.
5. **Vice-President (Finance) – Otchere presented**
 - Otchere summarized the report.
6. **Elections Department Report – FYC Election – Brenda Lin presented**
 - Brenda Lin summarized the report.

Information Period

- The Speaker informed the Assembly of the open SRA seats for the October by-election: four (4) seats for Engineering, one (1) seat for Humanities, one (1) seat for Kinesiology, one (1) seat for Nursing and one (1) seat for Business.
- Popovic informed the Assembly that TwelvEighty will be open as of tomorrow.

Question Period

- No questions were asked.

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. **Close nominations for MSU members to the Teaching Awards Committee (min. 2)**

Moved by Yang, **seconded** by Abbott that the Assembly close two (2) MSU member seats on the Teaching Awards Committee.

- The Speaker announced that one nomination was received.

Nominations

- Emily Xiao

Amendment

Moved by Arora, **seconded** by Otchere that the Assembly amend the motion to read: “**Moved** by _____, **seconded** by _____ that the Assembly close one (1) MSU member seat on the Teaching Awards Committee and postpone closing one (1) MSU member seat on this committee to SRA 231.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Back to Main Motion

Moved by Yang, **seconded** by Abbott that the Assembly close one (1) MSU member seat on the Teaching Awards Committee and postpone closing one (1) MSU member seat on this committee to SRA 231.

Vote on Main Motion

Passes Unanimously

- The Speaker announced that Emily Xiao won one MSU seat on the Teaching Awards Committee by acclamation.

2. Close nominations for one (1) MSU member to the Services Committee

- The Speaker announced that there were no nominations.

Motion to Postpone

Moved by Popovic, **seconded** by Zakkar that the Assembly postpone the following motion to SRA 231:

“Moved by _____, seconded by _____ that the Assembly close nominations for one (1) MSU member to the Services Committee.”

- Popovic said postponing this was the logical thing to do.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Business

4. Ratification of Electoral Appeal Board Members

Moved by Yang, **seconded** by Ahmad that the Assembly approve the following members of the Electoral Appeal Board: Dr. Nibaldo Galleguillos with Dr. Greg Flynn and Jonathan Lai as the two alternates.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

5. Ratification of OUSA Fall GA 2023 Delegates

Moved by Otchere, **seconded** by El-Kadi that the Assembly ratify the following names as delegates for the 2024 Fall OUSA General Assembly:

- Jovan Popovic
- Adam El-Kadi
- Kerry Yang
- Jazzlyn Abbott
- David Feboke
- Abdullah Masudi
- Aisha Mahmoud
- Yaseen ~~Kahn~~Khan

- Stephanie Henry
- Leen Zakkar

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Committee Business

1. Proposed changes to Operating Policy – President’s Council

Moved by El-Kadi that the Assembly approve the proposed changes to **Operating Policy – President’s Council**, as circulated.

- El-Kadi ceded their time to Arora. Arora reviewed the memo with the Assembly.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

Time of Next Meeting

**October 29, 2023
5:00pm (EDT)
Council Chambers, GH 111**

Call of the Roll

Present: Abbott, Ahmad, Arora, Batusic, Begun, El-Kadi, Ellis, Gono, Hannan, John, Otchere, Pacheco, Popovic, Qannam, Samuels, Shouldice, Su, Suganthan, Thusyanthan, Wang, Yang, Zakkar

Absent Excused:

Absent: Dodd, Forbes, Khandelwal, Yao

Late:

Others Present: Brenda Lin (Chief Returning Officer), Abdullah Masudi (MSU Member), Maheera Choudhury (AVP (Finance)), D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary)

Chair: Aiman Dhiloon (MSU Speaker)

Adjournment

Moved by Hannan, **seconded** by Arora that the meeting be adjourned.

Passes Unanimously

Adjourned at 7:13PM

/ds