



AGENDA - SRA 23J
 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY
 Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 5:00pm
 Council Chambers, GH 111

Procedure

Call of the Roll, Territory Recognition, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of SRA Minutes 23H and 23I, Announcements from the Chair, Special Orders of the Day, Delegation from the Floor, Report Period, Information Period, Question Period, Business Arising from the Minutes, Business, Committee Business, Unfinished Business, New Business, Time of Next Meeting, Call of the Roll, Adjournment

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'.

Report Period

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Health Sciences Caucus | Su |
| 2. Humanities Caucus | Hannan |
| 3. Kinesiology Caucus | Ahmad |
| 4. Provincial & Federal Affairs Committee | Abbott |
| 5. Finance Committee | Maheera Choudhury |
| 6. Executive Board | Otchere |
| 7. President | Popovic |
| 8. Vice-President (Education) | Samuels |
| 9. OUSA General Assembly | Samuels |

Business Arising from the Minutes

- | | |
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| 1. Close nominations for MSU members to the Teaching Awards Committee | Popovic |
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Business

- | | |
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| 1. Open one (1) MSU seat on the Elections Committee | Popovic |
| 2. Close one (1) MSU seat on the Elections Committee | Popovic |
| 3. Open one (1) SRA seat on the Finance Committee | Popovic |
| 4. Close one (1) SRA seat on the Finance Committee | Popovic |
| 5. Open SRA seats on Other Committees | Popovic |
| 6. Close SRA seats on Other Committees | Popovic |
| 7. Open SRA seats on SRN Awards Selection Committees | El-Kadi |
| 8. Open MSU seats on SRN Awards Selection Committees | El-Kadi |
| 9. McMaster Students and Student Groups Affected by Middle East Violence | Popovic |

Committee Business

- | | |
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| 1. Proposed changes to Bylaw 10/A – Delegate Selection | El-Kadi |
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Motions

1. **Moved** by _____, **seconded** by _____ that the Assembly close one (1) MSU member seat on the Teaching Awards Committee.
2. **Moved** by _____, **seconded** by _____ that the Assembly open nominations for one (1) MSU member seat on the Elections Committee.
3. **Moved** by _____, **seconded** by _____ that the Assembly close nominations for one (1) MSU member seat on the Elections Committee.
4. **Moved** by _____, **seconded** by _____ that the Assembly open nominations for one (1) SRA member seat on the Finance Committee.
5. **Moved** by _____, **seconded** by _____ that the Assembly close nominations for one (1) SRA member seat on the Finance Committee.
6. **Moved** by _____, **seconded** by _____ that the Assembly open nominations for SRA member seats to Other Committees, as listed:
 - EFRT Advisory Committee (1)
 - First-Year Council (1)
 - Information Technology Advisory Committee (1)
 - Interfaith Council (1)
7. **Moved** by _____, **seconded** by _____ that the Assembly close nominations for SRA member seats to Other Committees, as listed:
 - EFRT Advisory Committee (1)
 - First-Year Council (1)
 - Information Technology Advisory Committee (1)
 - Interfaith Council (1)
8. **Moved** by _____, **seconded** by _____ that the Assembly open nominations for SRA member seats to the following SRN Award Selection Committees:
 - Honour M (1)
 - MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
 - J. Lynn Watson (1)
 - MSU Spirit (1)
9. **Moved** by _____, **seconded** by _____ that the Assembly open nominations for MSU member seats to the following SRN Award Selection Committees:
 - Honour M (1)
 - MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
 - J. Lynn Watson (1)
 - MSU Spirit (1)
 - Rudy Heinzl (1)
10. **Moved** Popovic, **seconded** El-Kadi that the Student Representative Assembly adopt the following resolution in support of McMaster students and student groups affected by Middle East violence, as noted:

Whereas, both Palestinian and Israeli students, as well as Jewish and Muslim students have noted a rise in anti-Palestinian and anti-Israeli racism, as well as anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, at McMaster University, in Hamilton, other parts of southern Ontario, and internationally; and

Whereas, media representations and social media commentary related to violence in the Middle East has led to increased threats of harassment and violence against both Israeli and

Palestinian identifying students, as well as Muslim and Jewish identifying students at McMaster University; and

Whereas, McMaster University should be a community free from hate-speech, harassment, and racism, wherein dialogue, events, protests, and discussion should be lawfully protected and peacefully undertaken; and

Whereas, the death and destruction of innocent lives in Palestine and Israel is abhorrent; and

Whereas, all Palestinians and Israelis are deserving of peace, security, and freedom from religious or ethnic persecution, threats of violence, and have the right to exist and foster their own self-determination; and

Whereas, Hamas, defined by the Government of Canada and other nations as a terrorist organization, is widely viewed as an authoritarian regime in Gaza, which overtly seeks the destruction of Israel; and

Whereas, Hamas is documented to have employed suicide bombings, along with rocket and mortar attacks to kill Israelis; [[source #1](#), [source #2](#)] and

Whereas, according to Israeli authorities, Hamas killed over 1,400 innocent people in Israel, torturing many, and kidnapped more than 200 people on October 7, 2023; [[source #1](#), [source #2](#), [source #3](#), [source #4](#)] and

Whereas, those victims of kidnapping, range from children to elderly people, and remain under threat of torture or death by Hamas until they are released safely; [[source](#)] and

Whereas, Israeli Defense Minister, Yoav Gallant called for a “*complete siege*” of the Gaza Strip. Including a blockade of electricity, food, and fuel, while specifically saying, “*we are fighting human animals, and we act accordingly*”; [[sources #1](#), [source #2](#), [source #3](#)] and

Whereas, seven Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations jointly agreed, “*The Gazan population, half of whom are children, have already suffered many decades of unlawful brutal occupation and lived under the blockade for 16 years*”; [[source](#)] and

Whereas, the *United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)* reported in late October, the imminent collapse of fuel reserves, which would prevent necessities, such as hospitals from operating in Gaza, which will lead to a humanitarian catastrophe; [[source](#)] and

Whereas, according to the Palestinian authorities, nearly 10,000 Gazans, including approximately 4,000 children, have already been killed and Gazans continue to suffer under complete siege with eroding access to water, food, fuel, and subsequently healthcare and education; [[source #1](#), [source #2](#)] and

Whereas, there is an immediate humanitarian crisis in Gaza; and

Whereas the United Nations' Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) spokesperson, Liz Throssell has noted nearly 2,000 Palestinians have been arrested since October 7, and that the OHCHR has, "*... received credible and consistent reports indicating a further increase in the ill-treatment of detainees, which in many cases could amount to torture*"; [\[source\]](#) and

Whereas, Human Rights Watch has noted the use of White Phosphorus by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) in densely populated areas of Gaza, which violates international humanitarian law to take all feasible precautions to avoid civilian injury and loss of life [\[source\]](#), though the IDF has denied this claim ([source](#)); and

Whereas, seven Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations jointly agreed that, "*there is an ongoing campaign by Israel resulting in crimes against humanity in Gaza. Considering statements made by Israeli political leaders and their allies, accompanied by military action in Gaza and escalation of arrests and killing in the West Bank, there is also a risk of genocide against the Palestine people*"; [\[source\]](#) and

Whereas, United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres has called for an immediate ceasefire due to clear violations of international humanitarian law; [\[source\]](#) and

Whereas, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini has stated, "*an immediate humanitarian ceasefire has become a matter of life and death for millions*", and that the Israeli Defense Force's, "*current siege imposed on Gaza is collective punishment*"; [\[source #1\]](#), [\[source #2\]](#) and

Whereas, the current United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territory Occupied Since 1967, Francesca Albanese warned that, "*Palestinians are in grave danger of mass ethnic cleansing*"; [\[source\]](#) and

Whereas, the former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territory Occupied Since 1967, Michael Lynk and Amnesty International believe the "*political system of entrenched rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip satisfies the prevailing evidentiary standard for the existence of apartheid*"; [\[source #1\]](#), [\[source #2\]](#), [\[source #3\]](#) and

Whereas, students at McMaster University oppose apartheid, oppression, ethnic cleansing, terrorism, torture, and kidnapping; and

Whereas, members of the campus community, including concerned students, as well as the leadership teams of multiple MSU Clubs have been consulted on the creation of this motion, and that it has been properly brought before the Student Representative Assembly for debate; therefore,

Be it resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly joins the international chorus of voices condemning the terrorist attacks, torture, and kidnappings perpetuated by Hamas against innocent people in Israel; **be it further**

Resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly joins the international chorus of voices calling for the safe return of kidnapped victims taken by Hamas; **be it further**

Resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly joins the international chorus of voices condemning Hamas' overt desire to destroy Israel; **be it further**

Resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly believes Palestinians and Israelis are deserving of peace, security, and freedom from religious or ethnic persecution, and that Palestinians and Israelis have the right to exist and foster their own self-determination; **be it further**

Resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly joins the international chorus of voices calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, in order to save innocent lives in both Gaza and Israel, and to provide humanitarian aid to Gazans; **be it further**

Resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly believes statements made by the Israeli Defense Minister, referring to people as "*human animals*", dehumanizes Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim communities in the Middle East, in Canada, and within McMaster University, which may lead to increased bigotry, hate, and violence here, and around the globe; **be it further**

Resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly condemns the violations of international humanitarian law perpetuated by the Israeli Defense Force towards civilians in Palestine, and of Hamas towards civilians in Israel; **be it further**

Resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly pursuant to Articles 17, 87, and 89 of the Geneva Convention, joins the international chorus of voices denouncing the potential torture of Palestinian detainees in Israel and the potential torture of hostages held by Hamas; **be it further**

Resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly joins the international chorus of voices calling on the Israeli government to end the political system of entrenched rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip which satisfies the prevailing evidentiary standard for the existence of apartheid; **be it further**

Resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly condemns anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian, and anti-Israeli racism, as well as anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and hate-speech, and continues to endorse a campus culture of inclusion and safety; **be it further**

Resolved, that McMaster students should not be ostracized or threatened with violence or harassment for their political beliefs; **be it further**

Resolved, that the McMaster Students Union (MSU) will promote and support peaceful events, dialogue, and discourse, via the MSU Clubs Department; **be it further**

Resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly requests that McMaster University make every reasonable accommodation to students affected by the violence, including leniencies related to course work and deadlines; **be it further**

Resolved, that the McMaster Students Union will make a financial contribution of \$15,000, split evenly between the Palestinian Childrens' Relief Fund, Hamilton's Anti-Racism Resource Centre, Hamilton Jewish Family Services, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, contingent on Student Representative Assembly approval of this resolution, as properly expended by Executive Board.

11. **Moved** by El-Kadi that the Assembly approve the proposed changes to **Bylaw 10/A – Delegate Selection**, as circulated.