



**McMaster Students Union Incorporated Meeting
Sunday April 16, 2023 at 10:00am – SRA 23B
Council Chambers, GH 111**

Called to order at 10:16am

Call of The Roll

Present: Abbott, Ahmad, Arora, Batusic, Campbell, Chui, Dodd, Ellis, Fellman, Forbes, German, Gono, Hannan, Herzstein, John, Masudi, Pacheco, Qannam, Shouldice, Su, Suganthan, Thusyanthan, Wang, Wong, Yang, Yao, Zakkar

Absence Excused:

Absent: Begun, Hu, Khandelwal, Mohammed, Su, Yousef, Zafar

Late:

Others Present: Jacob Metzler (MSU Member), Jovan Popovic (MSU President-Elect), Mahum Khawaja (MSU Member), Mohil Imran (MSU Member), Laura Jurgeleviciute (MSU Member), Maia Rousseau (MSU Member), Elimira Noohpisheh (MSU Member), V.Scott (Recording Secretary), Piper Plavins (MSU Speaker)

Chair: Simranjeet Singh

- 1. Approve the minutes of Corporate Meetings 22C – April 24, 2022, 22D – June 26, 2022, and 22F – September 11, 2022, as circulated.**

Moved by German, **seconded** by Chui to adopt the minutes from Corporate Meetings 22C – April 24, 2022, 22D – June 26, 2022, and 22F – September 11, 2022, as circulated.

Passes Unanimously

- 2. Approve the Operating Budgets**

Moved by Chui, **seconded** by Hannan that the Full Members of the Corporation approve the 2023-2024 Operating Budget, as circulated and presented.

- Chui went over the operating budget with the Full Members.
- Hannan stated that they're glad they get to talk about the budget today.
- Chui ceded their time to Maia Rousseau. Rousseau asked what the timeline was for the new building to be opened.
- Chui responded that the Hub was already being built and is almost complete. They stated that it was projected to be done before the pandemic but will hopefully open in September.
- Yang asked about the budget for the Hub, and why there was \$25,000 allocated in miscellaneous. Yang ceded their time to Chui.

- Chui responded that it will be the first year offering the space of the Hub and they're not sure what costs will be needed for opening and operating, so they added a miscellaneous option that could be used towards cleaning or furniture.
- Chui ceded their time to Jacob Metzler. Metzler asked if the MSU will have contingencies in place to deal with situations with contractors not meeting their obligations, similar to what happened with Light up the Night.
- Chui responded that the issue that arose with Light up the Night was disappointing. They explained that they don't need a contingency in place as they have operating policies on what to do.
- Masudi asked about the expansion of the clubs budget and that Chui stated that the MSU will be making sure the money would be spent. They asked how Chui would ensure that the spending would happen. Masudi ceded to Chui.
- Chui responded that only 46% of the Clubs budget had been expended from the previous year. They explained that they felt this was due to MSU and University policies, and they're looking into cutting any red tape to allow for more utilization.
- Suganthan stated that the MSU is projected for a deficit, and everything adds up. They asked how Chui feels about this since they plan on allocating more money to clubs. Suganthan ceded their time to Chui.
- Chui responded that the MSU was projected for a deficit of \$81,000 but it's based on this past year's budget. They stated that it was one to two percent of this entire budget, but year to year the MSU will end up being in a surplus position due to investments. Chui explained that it was a miniscule risk that the MSU would be taking. They added that even if the entire clubs budget was spent, then it's money going back to the students. Chui stated that this budget was exciting due to the sheer amount of money going back to students with clubs, campus events, and marketing.
- Shouldice stated that \$140,000 was allocated for the upcoming budget, but last year it was only \$90,000. They asked what changes were being made within the clubs to ensure that this money was being used. Shouldice ceded their time to Chui.
- Chui responded that they will be going through the red tape put on clubs and that this will be a project continued by the incoming VP (Finance) to ensure that clubs use their money.
- Zakkar asked if the club money was distributed equally. Zakkar ceded their time to Chui.
- Chui responded that the funding is not distributed equally, and that it is dependent on the clubs presenting their budgets to the Clubs Administrator, the VP (Finance), and the Clubs Accounting Clerk. They added that returning clubs can receive up to \$800. Chui stated that they are looking into changing the policy to increase to a higher amount.
- Masudi asked what Chui meant by red tape. Masudi ceded their time to Chui.
- Chui responded that if clubs have to run an event, an EOHSS form has to be submitted and they're looking into changing things up. Chui added that the SRA is empowered to make certain changes, and should connect with their constituents to put pressure on University administration.
- German asked about Clubs policies and the red tape. They stated that in terms of EOHSS, MSU services have to do the same thing and they're being consistently approved. German added that this is all being done from a liability standpoint, and that this is MSU policy because it is the University's policy. German asked what conversations Chui has had with the University administration to have a modified approval process with EOHSS. They added that this was a huge legality issue with them and are more likely not willing to change. German asked Chui how they correlate this with the actual spending of money. German ceded their time to Chui.

- Chui stated that after submitting the proposal, they will be having meetings with University administration and the Clubs Administrator to highlight the red tape. They explained that this was a complicated topic and something that can't be done within two weeks of leaving the role. Chui explained that the accounting department will be doing this. They added that they're looking into the process for the clubs to reduce the risk and increasing funding.
- Forbes asked about EFRT's budget line, and what the Mac Summer Funding expense was. Forbes ceded their time to Chui.
- Chui responded that this was money that the MSU receives from the University to help fund EFRT running in the summer months. They explained that German worked hard last summer to negotiate with the University and signed an MOU with them to receive this funding.
- German ceded their time to Jacob Metzler. Jacob Metzler asked how equity will be done with the Clubs budget and bigger groups.
- Chui stated that it will be done on a case-by-case basis.
- German stated that from their understanding, only 50% of clubs have utilized the budget. They asked why the MSU is throwing more money to those who aren't using the budgets, instead of changing policies to give more money to returning clubs. German stated that they were curious as to why a simple operating policy change wasn't being made to access these funds, as that can be done in 10 days, instead of increasing the budget for those who aren't using the funds.
- Chui responded that pre-covid, the utilization of the budgets were at 60-70%, and now it is 50%. They explained that returning clubs can only apply up to \$800, which isn't enough money to sustain them. Chui stated that the first step was to increase the budget, and the next step was to fix the policy issues.
- Batusic asked Chui what was preventing clubs from just using their full budgets on whatever they wanted. Batusic ceded their time to Chui.
- Chui responded that there are items outlined in the clubs operating policy for clubs spending... They stated that everything is reviewed when clubs submit for reimbursement, and that items could be rejected.
- Yang asked about the Food and Beverage budget line. They stated that they see some revenue coming in, but would be nice to generate more. They asked if this was to honour the agreement with Compass Chartwells. Yang ceded their time to Chui.
- Chui responded that Compass Chartwells was paying the MSU rent, and a set amount agreed upon in the contract. They explained that they're not in a deficit anymore with this area. Chui added that if Compass Chartwells does well and reports a certain amount, then the MSU receives a 5% commission.
- Hannan asked what steps were being taken to manage revenue generation as well as ensuring that students have positive interactions with TwelvEighty and the Grind. Hannan ceded to German.
- German responded that there were extra nuances with Compass Chartwells, and that they're a part of the MSU, but not. They explained that any HR issues that have been raised are being dealt with.
- Suganthan asked about wages and how they're dealt with. Suganthan ceded their time to Chui.
- Chui responded that wages for part-time staff are determined by Executive Board. They added that they are looking into a better compensation package for FT and PT staff with a third-party company.
- Arora stated that under Campus Events there is around \$160,000 not traditionally used. They asked why not re-allocate this money to avoid potential deficits. Arora ceded to Chui.

- Chui responded that this money was for any winter programming expenses. They stated that prior to the pandemic it was utilized for winter term programming. They explained that the budget is a living document and there can be some flexibility.
- Suganthan asked about the meetings line.
- Chui responded that it was for SRA summer meetings and trainings. They explained that training used to be done in person, and the SRA would stay overnight on campus. Chui added that it hasn't been done recently due to the pandemic, and that they've been using the line for pizza and snacks for the SRA meetings.
- Arora asked what the rationale was for the Holiday Market. Arora ceded their time to Chui.
- Chui responded that an annual Holiday Market was included in their platform for the year. They explained that there are always large events happening at the beginning of the year and in April, and that there was a lack of events in December.
- German asked about structural changes, and wouldn't it be better if the organization made the structural changes first and then increased the budget instead of the other way. German asked how the MSU can make sure the changes will be made. German ceded to Dawdy.
- Dawdy responded that the rationale was to make the money available first before making the changes.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

3. Approve the allocation of items from the 2023-2024 Capital Budget

Moved by Chui, **seconded** by German that the Full Members of the Corporation approve the allocation of the capital requests in the 2023-2024 Capital Budget, as circulated.

- Chui went over the capital budget with the Full Members.
- Chui ceded time to an audience member. They asked about website enhancements.
- Chui responded that websites need to be updated every five to six years.
- Forbes asked if the money will be spent to make sure that those using the MSU website will have access to the best information. Forbes ceded their time to Chui.
- Chui responded that the current website wasn't that user friendly, and they're hoping to fix the HR section. They added that they would like to make everything more accessible.
- German pointed out that when looking at website enhancements, it goes through the IT Advisory Committee and that the quote is on par with other sites. They added that this was cheap as websites are expensive.
- Chui stated that they've done after market research, and that an e-commerce tab will be put on the website.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

4. Approve the expenditure of items from the 2023-2024 Capital Budget

Moved by Chui, **seconded** by German that the Full Members of the Corporation approve the expenditure of the capital requests in the 2023-2024 Capital Budget, as circulated.

- Chui stated that the money was allocated, so they need to motion to expend it.
- German agreed and added that the items will be able to be purchased right away.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

5. Adjournment

Moved by Abbott, **seconded** by German that the meeting of the Full Members of MSU Incorporated be adjourned.

Passes Unanimously

Adjourned at 11:26am

/vs