



Student Representative Assembly Meeting 23N
Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 5:00pm (EST)
Council Chambers, GH 111

Called to Order at 5:14pm

Call of the Roll

Present: Abbott, Arora, Batusic, Begun, Bolca, Chan, Dodd, El-Kadi, Ellis, Forbes, George, Gono, John, Keka, Mahmoud, Okosagah, Otchere, Popovic, Qannam, Samuels, Suganthan, Thusyanthan, Wang, Yang, Yao

Absence Excused:

Absent: Hu, Khan, Su, Zakkar

Late: Ahmad

Others Present: Maxwell Huang (First-Year Council Chair), Subah Rahman (MSU Member), 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 Samuels, **seconded** by Arora that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Popovic, **seconded** by El-Kadi to amend the agenda, and add a Delegation from the Floor for the Food Accessibility Initiative.

- Popovic noted they circulated a memo and wanted the opportunity to explain the initiative.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Popovic, **seconded** by El-Kadi that the following motion be added as Business Item 1: "**Moved** by Popovic, **seconded** by _____, that the Assembly call a referendum, coinciding with the 2024 SRA General Election, for the Food Accessibility Initiative, to increase the MSU organizational fee by \$5 per student, as outlined in the memo circulated."

- Popovic said this will provide an opportunity after the delegation to vote on if the assembly would like to send this item to referendum.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by El-Kadi, **seconded** by Popovic to amend the agenda, and add the following motion as Business Item 2:

“**Moved** by El-Kadi, **seconded** by Popovic that the Assembly recognize this special day and wish Isaac Begun a Happy Birthday.”

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Vote to Adopt

Moved by Samuels, **seconded** by Arora that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

Passes Unanimously

Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Samuels, **seconded** by Popovic that the Assembly adopt the minutes from SRA 23K – November 26, 2023, SRA 23L – January 7 and SRA 23M - January 21, 2024, as circulated.

Passes Unanimously

Announcements from Chair

- The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. They asked Assembly members to rise when providing their report and asked non-Assembly members to sign the Observer’s List. They reminded the Assembly to fill out the SRA merchandise form.

Delegation from the Floor

Set Parameters

Moved by El-Kadi, **seconded** by Otchere that the Assembly set parameters to be five minutes for the presentation and ten minutes for questions.

Passes Unanimously

1. Food Accessibility Initiative – Popovic presented

- Popovic noted that if re-elected, they promised students to address food insecurity and unaffordability. They added that students have unfortunately expressed that they are skipping meals to combat cost of living. Popovic presented his idea, known as the Food Accessibility Initiative, in which the MSU Organizational Fee would be increased by a modest \$5.00 (including CPI increases). They said their plan is to use this increase in fees to serve free soup and bread for two hours each day, four days a week, every week, for the entire school year. Popovic advised the Assembly that the proposal and associated costs have been reviewed with Wesley Chaplin, TwelvEighty Kitchen Manager, who expressed utmost confidence that this could be executed. Popovic added that with these costs, over 700 servings per day could be provided, totaling approximately 75,000-90,000 portions served. They noted that the program may require the addition of a part-time staff member to assist with the delivery. Popovic explained that this initiative was inspired by and largely modelled around an already successful program being run out of Dalhousie University.

Questions

- Abbott said that this initiative has the potential to be a great idea. They asked if consultations with students were done to gauge interest and where the number of 750 per day came from/if it is attainable.
- Popovic answered that two things were done. They said the first was assessing overall interest from the Presidential campaign period. They noted that students seemed extremely eager, and said no negative discussions were had. Popovic said the second thing was looking into how successful a similar program is at Dalhousie University. They said Dalhousie has wait times of up to 45 minutes, not because they take too long, but because there are so many people interested. Popovic felt that more students could be served daily, but wanted to ensure it was affordable and felt the \$5.00 cap is where students felt it was appropriate.
- Samuels asked Popovic to discuss the considerations made to ensure the food options are inclusive.
- Popovic answered that the goal is to serve two different soup options each day to accommodate all dietary needs. They added that the cost example provided was based on chicken noodle soup and lentil soup, as the ingredients appeal to all diets. Popovic added that Wes Chaplin, TwelvEighty Kitchen Manager, has significant experience in a vegan restaurant.
- Mahmoud asked if TwelvEighty could handle the volume of 750 servings per day during the lunch hour, while also still operating and serving their regular menu. They asked if there are other location options to if there is high engagement.
- Popovic clarified that it would be a 'grab-and-go' service with pre-packaged soups. They added the soups would be distributed from the window that is to the left of the TwelvEighty doors as this space is currently not being used. Popovic added that students would line up to receive the soup and there would be no service inside of the restaurant.
- Forbes asked if the \$5.00 goes directly to the soup or does it pay for hiring staff to assist.
- Popovic answered their intent is to spend the additional \$5.00 on batch ingredients. They added that there is a chance an additional staff member may need to be hired and if so, it would be a part-time student staff who would work for three hours per day, four days a week to assist with packaging and distribution.
- Forbes asked if the additional hire would be a volunteer position.
- Popovic answered that the idea is for it to be a part-time paid role, which could be taken from our existing operating budget.
- Abbott asked if it would be first come, first served or if there is potentially for a reservation-based system.
- Popovic answered that the plan is for it to be first come, first served but noted the system could be evaluated after seeing how it pans out.
- Yang brought up the idea of hiring a part-time staff member and asked if the MSU Food Collective Centre could potentially provide volunteers to assist.
- Popovic answered it is not a set-in stone system and was open to all ideas that would make the initiative run more efficiently.
- George asked how this initiative would benefit students who do not eat this type of food or those who would not be able to access it.
- Popovic answered that if the program is successful, more money can be allocated towards it. They added that they are trying to compromise between a reasonable fee and reasonable quantity/amount of portions distributed. Popovic said the goal is to serve for two hours per day as this logistically made the most sense. They added that 750 servings is not a cemented number and could be re-assessed in the future. They also said that if there is a clear demand, the overall program and allocation of funds can also be re-assessed.
- El-Kadi reiterated that \$5.00 per year is a reasonable first step and the program can be evaluated in the future.

Report Period

1. First-Year Council – Maxwell Huang presented

- Huang summarized the report.

Questions

- Popovic touched on the FYC Chair resignation and noted the plan is for themselves and the Assistant to Presidential Affairs to help oversee FYC. Popovic offered support and assistance to Huang.

2. Science Caucus – Abbott presented

- Abbott summarized the report.

3. Social Sciences Caucus – Wang presented

- Wang summarized the report.

4. Municipal Affairs Committee – Yang presented

- Yang summarized the report.

5. University Affairs Committee – report circulated

- Samuels summarized the report.

6. Executive Board – Wang presented

- Wang summarized the report.

Information Period

- Samuels wished Begun a happy birthday and noted it was Black history month.
- Abbott informed the Assembly to fill out the SRA merchandise form by this evening.
- Yang clarified that the SRA merchandise is free.

Question Period

- No questions were asked.

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. Close MSU Seats on SRN Awards Committees

Moved by Samuels, **seconded** by Okosagah that the Assembly close nominations for MSU member seats to the following SRN Award Selection Committees:

- MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
- J. Lynn Watson (1)
- Rudy Heinzl (1)

Nominations

- Annie Jia (MSU Merit Scholarship)

- Subah Rahman (J. Lynn Watson)
- Annie Jia (Rudy Heinzl)

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

- Annie Jia won the MSU member seats on the MSU Merit Scholarship and Rudy Heinzl Award Committees by acclamation.
- Subah Rahman won the MSU member seat on the J. Lynn Watson Award Committee by acclamation.

Business

1. Food Accessibility Initiative

Moved by Popovic, **seconded** by Okosagah that the Assembly call a referendum, coinciding with the 2024 SRA General Election, for the Food Accessibility Initiative, to increase the MSU organizational fee by \$5 per student, as outlined in the memo circulated.

- Popovic was eager to see the vote and thought that sending this to referendum was the best move. They added that they promised students that if re-elected, they would provide this option. They encouraged Assembly members to come forward now with any questions.
- Okosagah stated that it was a good initiative.
- Yang asked if an opt-out options is feasible after the referendum is passed. Yang ceded their time to Popovic.
- Popovic said there is no opt-out option currently available and that is a reason for the fee being so low. They reiterated it would be available four days a week, every week, for the entire school year. Popovic added that it would be a quick way for students to earn their money back if they take advantage of it.

Vote on Motion

Passes Unanimously

2. Birthday Wishes for Begun

Moved by El-Kadi, **seconded** by Popovic that the Assembly recognize this special day and wish Isaac Begun a Happy Birthday.

- The Assembly sang “Happy Birthday” to Begun.

Vote on Motion

**In Favour: 27 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1
Abstained: Begun**

Time of Next Meeting

**February 25, 2024
5:00pm (EST)
Council Chambers, GH111**

Call of the Roll

Present: Abbott, Ahmad, Arora, Batusic, Begun, Bolca, Chan, Dodd, El-Kadi, Ellis, Forbes, George, Gono, John, Keka, Mahmoud, Okosagah, Otchere, Popovic, Qannam, Samuels, Suganthan, Thusyanthan, Wang, Yang, Yao

Absence Excused:

Absent: Hu, Khan, Su, Zakkar

Late:

Others Present: D. Stajcer (Recording Secretary)

Chair: Aiman Dhiloon (MSU Speaker)

Adjournment

Moved by El-Kadi, **seconded** by Popovic that the meeting be adjourned.

Passes Unanimously

Adjourned at 5:54pm

/ds