

**LSA Council Agenda & Minutes – November 6, 2023**  
**NCDH 312 & [Zoom](#)**

**4:30pm - 5:30pm**

**Present:** Justine Blanchette-Sirois, Matthew Boulden, Jacob Shannon, Sajneet Mangat, Emily Payne, Julius Grippo, Pénélope Labbé, Jean-Sébastien Léger, Lucia Quintero, Jessica Li, Jessica Khoury

**Zoom:** Yasmine Liani, David Brady, Chris (GLSA), Nada Farag

**Regrets:** Xin Hao Yang, Ian Anderson, Weeam Ben Rejeb, Shania Dalili, Stephanie Kay, Sara Sanabria, Alexia Armstrong, Khaled Hassoun, Emma Bussièrès

**Absent:** Liam Dodge, Stefan Davies, Leanna Katz

**Call to Order / Appel à l'ordre**

**1. Secretary / Secrétaire**

- a. Nomination of Pénélope for the rest of the semester
- b. Moved by Jessica
- c. Seconded by Julius

**2. Land acknowledge / Reconnaissance territoriale**

**3. Adoption of the agenda**

- a. Moved by Emily
- b. Seconded by Jacob

**4. Adoption of last meeting's minutes**

- a. Meeting of October 23 2023
- b. Moved by Julius
- c. Seconded by Jessica (1L)

**5. GLSA Members / Membres du GLSA**

- a. Justice welcomes GLSA member, who is allowed to attend the meetings according to the LSA Constitution. Welcome Chris!
- b. Chris is GLSA VP Internal, will most likely not attend all meetings, other VPs will alternate. Available to answer questions about grade studies.

**6. Executive Reports / Rapports de l'exécutif**

**a. Justine - President**

- i. Financial presentation prepared by Ian for the AGM
  1. Presentation of the 2023-2024 budget
    - a. 2022-2023 was a financial anomaly (undeposited checks were found, had 50k more than a normal

- year, tried but failed to find an accountant).
  - b. 2018-2019 was the last full in-person year, similar to this year. Special Events take up a lot of the budget but these events make up a lot of our revenue too
  - c. Note: the LSA is not in debt.
2. Revenues
- a. Student fees is the main source of revenue every year (fairly stable number)
    - i. 65k in unrestricted fees (to the LSA)
    - ii. Restrictive fees (eg. to journals). Every year, the LSA holds the money until the journals claim it, but the journals do not always spend it. Last year, the referendum allocated 40k of the 77k of unclaimed restrictive fees to the LSA (most of it went to special events like the Law Ball and the Grad Gala).
  - b. Sponsorship revenue is lower than it was before Covid. It is easier to acquire sponsorship for targetted events so the LSA is encouraging clubs to seek their own funding.
  - c. ASEF
  - d. Coffeehouses and special events also make revenue. Previous years had more revenue because there will be more events.
3. Expenses
- a. Accounting and auditing requirements is the main reason explaining why the LSA's budget is different this year. The LSA has an obligation with McGill internal to get bookkeeping and auditing done but we have not done that since Covid. There were difficulties finding an accountant. We are doing accounting work from 2019 to today, which explains the 25k in costs.
  - b. Events (Frosh, Grad Gala)
  - c. Administrative costs (insurance, McGill bills, CRO/DRO, Pubdocs, etc.)
  - d. Activities (clubs, Class presidents, Quid Novi)
4. Notes: the high expenses from last year partly explain this year's financial difficulties. Accounting expenses will stabilize moving forward. The LSA is cutting budget everywhere (events, clubs, internal costs)

5. Answers to questions from the LSA Council
    - a. Won't share the prepare slide deck because per the LSA Constitution, the document is confidential to LSA members.
    - b. Expectation is a big part of the problem—clubs were understandably expecting more money and were disappointed with what they received.
    - c. The 77k is money from students' pockets that remained unused. Last year, the 40k was allocated to the general budget.
    - d. The 2019 executive team decided not to do bookkeeping and none of the following executive teams decided to do so. McGill did not warn us.
  - ii. Motion proposed about tuition fee increase
    1. Will be sent to LSA Council members for review.
    2. The LSA would be mandated to engage in advocacy efforts to negotiate with the government, information campaigns. Refer to the proposition for more.
  - iii. Interfaculty relations plans
    1. By SSMU
    2. Issue regarding the 2k buy-in clause (part of this 2k would fund a Presidents' retreat).
- b. Ian - VP Finance Presentation**
- i. See Justine's report
- c. Jacob - VP External**
- i. SSMU Update
    1. SSMU wants to release a statement about Israel and Palestine. Jacob sat on the working group to draft the statement. He suggested
      - a. How to express your opinion safely on campus (anti-doxxing)
      - b. Based partly on uOttawa's statement
    2. LSA decided not to release a statement since it would be difficult to release one that everyone would agree with.
  - ii. Answers to questions from the LSA Council
    1. There is no tentative date for release of the statement.
    2. SSMU stated that the issue is so presenting that Jacob does not have time to consult all students.
    3. The LSA will not have to share the statement - we are not directly affected by it.
    4. Resources to ways to deal with stress will most likely not be

included in the statement.

JS invites us to close the meeting due to lack of time.

- Julius proposes
  - Emily seconds.
    - d. **Khaled - VP Academic**
    - e. **Liam - VP Partnerships**
    - f. **Matthew - VP Ongoing Events**
    - g. **Penelope - VP Special Events**
    - h. **Julius - VP Clubs**
    - i. **Stephanie - VP Communications**
    - j. **Xin - VP Internal**
      - i. Bulk merch order ongoing, form will be shared soon
      - ii. Mental Health Committee is busy! Many initiatives to come
- 7. Other reports / Autres rapports**
- a. **Law Senator**
  - b. **Faculty Council Representatives**
  - c. **1L Presidents**
  - d. **2L Presidents Report**
  - e. **3L Presidents**
  - f. **4L Presidents**
- 8. Motion to adjourn the meeting/ Ajournement - 5:30**

#### **Important next dates**

- AGM Wednesday November 8th 1pm moot court

**Next meeting November 20th at 4:30pm.**