

LSA Council Agenda & Minutes – November 20, 2023
NCDH 312 & [Zoom](#)

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Present: Jacob Shannon, Matthew Boulden, Emily Payne, Julius Grippo, Pénélope Labbé, Jean-Sébastien Léger, Jessica Li, Jessica Khoury, Alexia Armstrong, Emma Bussières, Justine Blanchette-Sirois

Zoom: Sajneet Mangat, Stephanie Kay, Yasmine Liani, Stefan Davies, Weeam Ben Rejeb, Lucia Quintero

Regrets: Xin Hao Yang, Shania Dalili, Ian Anderson, Sara Sanabria, David Brady

Absent: Khaled Hassoun, Liam Dodge, Chris (GLSA), Nada Farag, Leanna Katz (GLSA)

Required attendees:

Call to Order / Appel à l'ordre @4:38pm

- 1. Land acknowledgement / Reconnaissance territoriale**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda**
 - a. No points to add
 - b. Julius proposes, Jessica (1L) seconds
 - c. No opposition
- 3. Adoption of last meeting's minutes**
 - a. No modifications brought to the minutes
 - b. Julius proposes, Jacob seconds
 - c. No objection
- 4. Presentation from SAO (guest)**
 - a. Guest is not a member of the council
 - i. Emily proposes her right to speak
 - b. Cassandra is the new Student Affairs Officer. She introduces herself.
 - i. Started SAO advisory boards, try to get more events running.
 - ii. Acknowledges that the SAO has been going through a lot of changes (members, management) which can be leave students frustrated at times.
 - iii. Always open to suggestions or comments.
 - c. Julius, as a TA, brings up the worry surrounding the final exam schedule.
 - i. He addressed Pless' exam situation, it's supposed to be take-home

- opened but it's written fixed-time on the website.
 - ii. Richard Gold's and Boulanger-Bonnely's exams situations are also brought up.
 - iii. Cassandra says she and the SAO are aware of the worry and are doing their best.
 - iv. Jessica thanks her for the job she has been doing facing these difficult times.
- d. Justine asks if the SAO advisory board members list is available so students could reach out.
- e. Jessica asks if she's going to be present for the entire meeting. Speaker answers that it should be brought up now.
 - i. Student asks if the SAO could have a conversation with Students Accessibility and Achievement to facilitate the students in the process. Cassandra answers yes.
- f. We thank her for her presence. She leaves the room.

5. Adoption of rules surrounding meeting absences

Context explained by JS: the day chosen for the council meetings was a compromise, there was no time where all were available. He and Xin identified three main reasons why students sitting on the council could miss meetings.

JS reads the suggested motion.

In the constitution, missing 3 meetings without notice and valid reason could lead to the member losing their position on the council.

- a. Class, recruitment events, clinic/clerkships (vote)
 - i. Suggested motion:
 - 1. "The LSA Council recognizes that the following reasons are valid reasons for a member to be absent from Council meetings :
 - a. Attendance at class or class activities (excluding studying or project work);
 - b. Participation at recruitment events, including but not limited to those related to the Montreal *Course-aux-stages* and the OCI processes in markets such as Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa, New York;
 - c. Engagements in activities related to work, legal clinic placements or court clerkships.
 - 2. A member who engages in such activities must inform the LSA VP Internal of the reason for their absence. The

absences must be legitimate and reasonably related to the activities stated above.

3. If a member will be absent from all regular meetings in a given semester due to one of the reasons stated above, they are dispensed with notifying their absence 48h prior to the meeting. The first notice given to the LSA VP Internal will be considered as notice for the remainder of the semester.
4. If a member's situation changes and they no longer engage in the activities listed in point 1 above, or their participation in those activities will no longer have an impact on their capacity to attend Council meetings, they must inform the LSA VP Internal of such changes. The standard rules stated in section 42 of the LSA Constitution then apply.
5. This motion is applicable retroactively **for absences previously disclosed to VP Internal** from October 23, 2023 to the end of the winter term of the 2023-2024 academic year.”

- ii. Lucia wonders why sickness was not mentioned. JS says this is already in the constitution and reminds that the VP internal has discretion in determining the validity of the absence. Il spécifie que la motion a pour but de permettre aux étudiants qui ne pourront être présents plusieurs fois pour ces trois facteurs en raison de la date fixe de rencontre choisie.
- iii. Justine asks about the retroactive application of this.
 1. Clarifications par JS et Justine : rétroactif pour ceux qui ont déjà avisé de leurs absences passées. Cela ne s'adresse pas à ceux qui n'avaient tout simplement pas envie de venir.
 2. Proposition d'ajouter la précision à l'article 5.
 3. Justine modifies the motion.
- iv. Emily proposes the motion;
- v. Emma seconds the motion.
- vi. Motion is unanimously adopted by vote.

6. GLSA Members / Membres du GLSA

- a. None

7. Executive Reports / Rapports de l'exécutif

a. Justine - President

- i. Presented detailed organizational chart of LSA and McGill Law governance
 1. Pour consultation pour le moment : l'AÉD organigramme.
 2. La section du SSMU doit être finalisée, tout comme les étudiants qui siègent sur les comités en orange.

- 3. Julius dit que c'est beau.
 - ii. Created a "how to" guide for getting an alcohol permit
 - b. Ian - VP Finance**
 - c. Jacob - VP External**
 - d. Khaled - VP Academic**
 - e. Liam - VP Partnerships**
 - f. Matthew - VP Ongoing Events**
 - i. Skit Night's Charity Approval (requires a 2/3 vote)
 - 1. Proposed supporting the [Native Women's Shelter of Montreal](#)
 - 2. Could consider supporting more specific initiatives/projects within charitable organizations in the future based on need (discussed pros and cons)
 - 3. Matt proposes the motion; Julius seconds the motion.
 - 4. Motion is unanimously adopted by vote.
 - g. Penelope - VP Special Events**
 - h. Julius - VP Clubs**
 - i. Stephanie - VP Communications**
 - j. Xin - VP Internal**
- 8. Other reports / Autres rapports**
 - a. Law Senator**
 - b. Faculty Council Representatives**
 - i. Issue of students falling between the cracks for accessing accommodations from the McGill SAA (e.g., difficult to obtain accommodations without a formal medical diagnosis)
 - ii. Issue of difficult/tense climate within the Faculty of Law
 - 1. LSA Mental Health Committee
 - 2. Recent SSMU Statement (related to doxxing)
 - 3. Can submit questions to Dean in advance of the next Faculty Council
 - c. 1L Presidents**
 - d. 2L Presidents**
 - e. 3L Presidents**
 - f. 4L Presidents**
- 9. Motion to adjourn the meeting/ Ajournement - 5:30**

Next meeting December 4th at 4:30pm.