



General Assembly Agenda

October 21st, 2009

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approval of the Agenda
- 3) Old Business
- 4) New Business

a. Motion re: Student Employment in the Shatner Building

Whereas the Shatner Building is student space intended to serve students;
and,
Whereas students often have income under the poverty rate; and,

Whereas many students often struggle to balance studies with a part-time job
and proximity of the two greatly facilitates the juggling act; and,

Whereas over the past decade McGill University has been clawing back
student-run food services to the detriment of student employment on
campus; and,

Whereas there are many corporate food service tenants in the Shatner
Building; and,

Whereas few of the corporate tenants actually employ students at McGill
and Café Supreme opened this past summer and employs no students at all;
and,



Whereas the SSMU should concern itself with providing as much opportunity for student employment in the Shatner building as possible;

Be it resolved that SSMU executives be mandated by the student body of the SSMU to prioritize student employment in all future sub-lease negotiations and renegotiations for all tenants in the Shatner building; and,

Be it further resolved that SSMU executives work to enshrine a commitment to student employment in all future sub-leases.

b. Motion re: Energy Usage in the Shatner Building

WHEREAS the SSMU Constitution Preamble mandates the SSMU be a leader in environmental issues; and

WHEREAS the energy intensity in the Shatner Building averages to 2.87 Gj per square meter from 2002-2008; and

WHEREAS this is 40% higher than the average for Canadian university buildings;

BE IT RESOLVED that the SSMU aim to lower its energy intensity to 2.04 Gj per square meter, the average for Canadian university buildings, by September 1, 2015;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in order to achieve this goal, the SSMU seek out a professional audit of its energy usage and suggestions for reducing it;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in order to achieve this goal, the SSMU undertake large scale projects with a significant impact on energy usage, including but not limited to building renovations and remodeling the lighting structures

c. Motion re: Porn!



WHEREAS SSMU By-Law III-8, Part V, article 28 currently reads:

Article 28 – Offensive Material

28.1 The Students' Society finds pornography to be sexist, exploitive and degrading; pornographic magazines have been found to offend members of the McGill community and the Students' Society shall not participate in the marketing or distribution of sexist publications.

28.1.1 This by-law shall apply only to publications of which a primary purpose is the gratuitous display of naked bodies or of persons engaged in sexual activity.

This article shall not apply to publications primarily devoted to the study of art history or to fashion magazines.

Any written or graphic material which is published, distributed, endorsed, or funded by the Society shall be governed by the following:

No material will discriminate against any member or group within the Society on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, religious belief, disability, age, financial status, etc.

Activities endorsed or funded by the Society, its clubs, or interest groups shall also abide by the above.

WHEREAS this article incorrectly generalizes about the nature of pornography and the reactions of members of the McGill community;

WHEREAS some porn is feminist, queer positive, defies mainstream gender paradigms, is educative, and/or has other positive qualities that benefit society;

WHEREAS some of the SSMU services offer this type of porn for use by their members;

WHEREAS 28.2.1 is repeated in the Preamble of the SSMU Constitution, Articles VI and VIII, and the SSMU Equity Policy, thus making it redundant;



BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law III-8, Part V, article 28 is amended to read:

“28.1.The Students’ Society shall not participate in the production, funding, marketing or distribution of oppressive pornographic material for non-academic purposes.

28.1.1. Activities organized, endorsed, or funded by the Society, its clubs, or interest groups shall also abide by the above.”

d. Motion re: Space Efficiency in the Shatner Building

Whereas student studying space on University grounds is becoming a rare commodity,

Whereas the first paragraph of the preamble of the SSMU's constitution states that the "Students' Society shall serve...while providing services to strengthen the educational...conditions of our membership",

Whereas, SSMU should strive to use the space it leases from the university as efficiently as possible,

Be it further resolved that the SSMU installs a hinged desk on the back of every bathroom stall door in the Shatner Building for the purpose of studying while "taking care of business",

Be it further resolved that installation be completed by March 1st, 2010, so that the stalls may be used for studying for the Winter term finals.

e. Motion re: Use of Styrofoam in the Shatner Building

Whereas the SSMU constitution states: “The Students’ Society shall act in the best interests of its membership as a whole”; and

Whereas Styrofoam cups were found to have lost mass after exposure to hot



liquid (i.e. the cup had melted into the drink) and by 1986 styrene was found in 100 percent of human fat tissue samples taken by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency); and

Whereas short-term exposure to styrene can result in mucus membrane and eye irritation (when gaseous) as well as gastrointestinal effects, and Chronic (long-term) exposure to styrene in humans results in effects on the central nervous system (CNS), such as headache, fatigue, weakness, and depression, CNS dysfunction, hearing loss, and peripheral neuropathy; and

Whereas the SSMU constitution also states: “The Students’ Society commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection. The Society shall be mindful of the direct and indirect effects corporations, businesses and organizations have on their social, political, economic, and environmental surroundings”; and

Whereas manufacture and disposal of Styrofoam releases dangerous toxic chemicals and contaminants into the air, contributing to environmental degradation; and

Whereas Styrofoam is non-recyclable and so is an open cycle that must use up ever more resources in order to continue; and

Whereas Styrofoam is manufactured using oil, which contributes to a range of socio-economic problems due to dependence on foreign and often unstable countries for its production; and

Whereas alternative materials, such as paper and cornstarch, are produced in the near vicinity to the city of Montreal, and could be sourced with far less transportation, again reducing our carbon footprint; and

Whereas the use of such a bio-friendly material would translate to less than



ten cents to the consumers, and also encourage eco-responsible practices such as using personal Tupper-ware; and

Whereas the use of washable, reusable plates would eliminate all transportation and production cost entirely, reducing the environmental impact to just the heat, water and soap used to clean them; and

Whereas after the initial investment in reusable plates the cost of upkeep (washing) for these plates would be a fraction of even that for Styrofoam equivalents; and

Whereas there is already a group active in Shatner (the Plate Club) dedicated to the sustainable replacement of Styrofoam,

Therefore be it resolved that SSMU move towards the banning of Styrofoam in the Student Union building by the fall semester of 2010 and replace the disposable Styrofoam option with a healthier alternative, such as corn starch plastics; or

Be it even better resolved that SSMU moves towards institutionalizing the Plate Club and supporting them to run for all meals, five days a week; and

Be it further resolved that SSMU lobby McGill administration to follow suit and eliminate the use and distribution of Styrofoam on the McGill campus; and

Be it yet further resolved that SSMU distribute information to all clubs and services, and to the student body on issues pertaining to Styrofoam and the Plate Club's alternatives to it.

5) Question Period

6) Report of the Executive Committee

7) New Business cont.



f. Motion re: Shatner Building Lease

WHEREAS the lease of the William Shatner University Centre is set to expire in May 2011.

WHEREAS the William Shatner University Centre is a hub for all of the SSMU's activities

WHEREAS the William Shatner University Centre a pillar for all student life on campus.

WHEREAS the William Shatner University Centre is the only space on campus students groups may book free of charge

WHEREAS the Royal Institute for the Advancement of Learning has previously only signed lease agreements with five (5) year terms

WHEREAS significant investments and improvements to the building can only be justified by a longer tenancy

BE IT RESOLVED that the SSMU attempt to renegotiate the current lease with Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SSMU obtain the longest possible term of lease.

g. Motion re: Seafood on Campus

Whereas the SSMU constitution pledges "demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection. the Society shall be mindfull of the direct and indirect effects of corporations, businesses and organizations have on their social, political, economic, and environmental surroundings"; and

Whereas 90% of the world's predatory fish have disappeared from the world's oceans since the industrialization of fishing in the 1950's, with imminent and severe consequences for ocean ecosystem; and



Whereas according to officials from the UN food and Agriculture organization, over 75% of the world's fisheries are fully- to over-exploited, depleted, or in a state of collapse; and

Whereas fish on the "Red List" of Canada's seafood guide by SeaChoice, are defined as species that are either commonly sourced from overfished and depleted stocks, or are being fished at such a high rate that stocks are being rapidly depleted, or fishing methods used to catch the fish are often highly destructive to other ocean creatures and habitat; and

Whereas the specific fish on the "Red List" include: Chilean Seabass, Clams (arctic surf and quahog), Atlantic Cod, King Crab, Sole, Greenland Halibut, Haddock, Lobster, Orange Roughy, Rockfish, Scallops, Shark, Tropical shrimp, Tropical prawns, Swordfish, Albacore Tuna, Bluefin Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, Atlantic Salmon, and Tilapia; and

Whereas the continued fishing of each of the above, unsustainable fish species, is highly detrimental to the overall ecology of our oceans;

Therefore be it resolved that SSMU move towards the permanent elimination of the sale of all "Red List" fish species within the Student Union Building; and

Be it further resolved that SSMU put their best effort into working with campus groups to pressure McGill administration to replace all of the "Red List" fish species from the menus of all cafeterias and food vendors on the McGill Campus, as well as in McGill Residences; and

Be it further resolved that SSMU meet with all future contractors in the Student Union Building to insist upon adherence to Canada's Seafood Guide, in order to facilitate progress in sustainable seafood choices with future food vendor contracts.

h. Motion re: Self-funded Tuition Model

Whereas McGill University recently increased the tuition of the MBA program to \$30,000 a year.



Whereas this decision is indicative of a trend of moving toward privatized self-funded professional degree programs in Universities across Canada.

Whereas the SSMU represents undergraduate students in Faculties with professional degree programs that are a part of this trend including Law, Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering.

Whereas as of 1992, the SSMU has had a policy to be “unconditionally opposed to any increases whatsoever in the total dollar amount of university tuition fees”

Be it resolved that the SSMU take a formal policy against the self-funded tuition model to guide its lobbying on the University, Provincial, and Federal level.

Adjournment