

General Assembly, Fall 2020 (November 29, 12-4pm)

Minutes and notes were taken by Fern Lou

Electoral officer: Brooklyn Frizzle, brooklyn.frizzle@mail.mcgill.ca

1. Attendance: VC, Jordan, Natan, Sydney, Grey, Fern Lou
 - a. Check-Ins
 - b. Introduction: Welcome everyone!
 - c. Breaks: after constitutional changes, more if needed
2. Agenda
 - a. Reading of Agenda
 - b. Modification of Agenda
 - c. Approval of agenda: unanimous approval of agenda
3. Voting
 - a. Hand raising
 - b. More anonymous method
 - i. Private message VC, chat will be saved
 - ii. Type Y, N, or A in the document to vote anonymously
 1. Private messaging VC is likely more anonymous
 - iii. Make a google form
 - iv. Polling option on zoom

Attendance: Brooklyn and Caroline arrive (Brooklyn will be the elections officer)

- v. Vote on which version we plan to use for anonymous voting:
 1. Private message to Brooklyn: 5
 2. Typing in the document: 0
 3. Google form: 2
 4. Abstain: 0
 5. No: 0
 - vi. "Save chat" function will be our record of votes
4. Constitutional Changes: change or remove term limits for coord positions
 - a. discussion

Change constitution because under current constitution, current events cannot run again, and worry that the future events coords would not have experience having seen how in-person events function. Last term, no one ran for events

against Grey and Jordan, despite active outreach conducted last year (which was much easier than in previous years because there was much more interaction/in-person interaction). Considering the low turnout of running for events in previous years, worry that people would be even less likely to run this year. Also, in previous years we had staffers (volunteers) who were already invested in the organization.

- Constitution says that 2 year term limits in the same position are only applicable if no one else is running for the position.
- What happens if one person runs for events? Which of the current events coordinators would have to not run? Current wording looks like if one person runs for events coordinator, then neither of the current events coordinators can run.
- Suggestion to add caveat of to make it such that, for events coordinators, 2 people are needed in order for the term limit to apply
- Term limits of 2 years feel like they are necessarily a good idea. Originally, they were implemented to prevent cliques within QM
 - Incumbent coordinators have never been defeated by non-coordinators
- There can be good turnover without losing memory; currently it feels that the loss of memory negatively outweighs the prevention of cliques forming within the QM coordinating body
 - Just because our current group hasn't formed a clique, doesn't mean that future coordinating bodies won't
 - It has, historically, taken a long time for QM to recover from cliques in the coord body
- Ideally, a future events coord would have attended at least one in-person event
- Feels uncomfortable with one person automatically getting the position.
- Don't actually automatically get it because there's still the issue of "no" votes
- Due to COVID, there is currently no collective memory of what QM events are like and little knowledge base for people to fall back on
- Would extending the term limit to 3 years help?

- If, due to extenuating circumstances, there is concern about continuity and preserving internal memory, the 2 year term limit can be waived
 - If, for example, the coords unanimously agree that there is a concern about continuity
- Friendly motions section
- Put it in Emergency powers act
 - Emergency powers act already has a mechanism that allows members to challenge it
- Internal memory: putting any kind of term limit on a position likely means there'll be a problem with internal memory
 - As a solution, create set rules and requirements for training and exit reports from past coords to newly elected coords
 - Would be good to keep a running log of exit reports because all reports from the last 3 years have been used (at least in the case of events)
 - We can just add subpoints to the section on training and exit reports that already currently exists in constitution
 - We can further make these changes and discuss it more at the Winter GA
- Possible solutions:
 - Amending the term limit to say "or no two other events coordinators"
 - Adding caveat in emergency powers section for extenuating circumstance (as above)
 - Could apply to other emergency sections that are non-COVID related
 - Changing term limit from 2 years to 3 years
- b. Vote: do we want to make amendments to the constitution today? (anonymous voting - records will be written as B. yes, B. no, or B. abstain)
 - i. Yes: 7
 - ii. No: 0
 - iii. Abstain: 0

- c. Motion: BIRT, the following amendment to the Constitution be made to replace s. xii of Article VII: “No other candidate, or no two other candidates for Events Coordinators, has or have indicated interest in that position.”

i. Proposed by: Brooklyn Seconded by: VC

(anonymous voting - records will be written as C. yes, C. no, or C. abstain)

ii. Yes: 7

iii. No: 0

iv. Abstain: 0

- d. Motion: BIRT the following section be added to Article XVI:

Emergency Powers: iv. Should the Coordinating Body come to a unanimous agreement that the continuity or internal memory of Queer McGill is under threat, the term limits outlined in s. xii of Article VII: The General Assembly may be suspended by a resolution adopted unanimously by the Coordinating Body for this purpose. BIFRT all subsequent sections be amended numerically to reflect the addition of s iv.

i. Proposed by: Brooklyn Seconded by: Natan

(anonymous voting - records will be written as D. yes, D. no, or D. abstain)

ii. Yes: 7

iii. No: 0

iv. Abstain: 0

- e. Motion: BIRT Article VIII: Elections s. Xii b) be amended from “They have spent fewer than two (2) years in their current position and fewer than four (4) years total as a Coordinator or;” to read “They have spent fewer than three (3) years in their current position and fewer than four (4) years total as a Coordinator or;”

i. Proposed by: Jordan Seconded by: Grey

(anonymous voting - records will be written as E. yes, E. no, or E. abstain)

ii. Yes: 2

iii. No: 4

iv. Abstain:1

Break from 2 - 2:10

5. Admin Updates

a. Online transition

- i. Things are going well, trying to provide as many of the same events and services as we can
- ii. We do not have staffers this term
- iii. Do have 6 virtual office hours/week (very low attendance though)
- iv. Office space is not open to the public yet
- v. What we do is through the private Social distancing facebook group to prevent trolls

b. University Centre Move

- i. We've moved back into the University Centre on McTavish
- ii. Office space is 432 and we have our own library
- iii. Grand reopening is (very tentatively) scheduled for Jan. 18th

c. Open Houses, Virtual M&G, Activities Night

- i. VC prepared virtual booths on Eventus for above virtual activities
 - 1. Included information and links
 - 2. There was also a live chat
 - 3. Much lower attendance than typical in-person open house

d. Student Advisory Committee/Student Engagement Collective (same thing, they just changed the name partway through)

- i. Happened over summer
- ii. Wanted input from student representatives about what we needed from a virtual semester

e. Services Committee

- i. All the different services meet up with SSMU services representative, as well as the chair and VP student life

- ii. Discuss issues faced and news from SSMU
 - iii. Discuss finances, moving updates, services, social media aspects
 - iv. Service review - internal and external review used by SSMU to rate our service and make sure we're still doing the things we're doing in order to keep our status as a service
 - v. External survey to be sent out to our membership
 - vi. Internal survey for how we think we're doing
- f. SSMUnion
 - i. Union we're part of under CUPE
 - ii. We're currently bargaining with SSMU
 - iii. We are taking an anti-police stance (even though they're also under CUPE)
- g. JBSCE Queer Subcommittee
 - i. LGBTQ+ staff, students, and allies discussing LGBTQ+ related things on campus and put on Queer History Month
 - ii. Acted as student rep. For QM
- h. Gender and Sexuality Commissioner
 - i. Under VP University Affairs
 - ii. New project to put a new paid commissioner position under the UGE, QM, and SSMU
 - iii. This position would put into place a committee, which would be a forum to coordinate efforts of different student groups on campus and be sure that we receive institutional support
 - iv. As of right now, QM is responsible for paying the full or a majority of the position until the UGE is able to levy their own fee to pay for the position
- i. Mental Health Roundtable
 - i. Student representatives from different student services with goal of providing mental health resources and advocacy to the McGill student community
 - ii. VC makes sure they put the needs of LGBTQ+ students into consideration

- j. Our Turn Task Force
 - i. Task force on preventing sexual violence
 - ii. VC makes sure they put the needs of LGBTQ+ students into consideration
 - iii. Not currently meeting very regularly because since everything is online, on campus sexual violence is not at the forefront of everyone's minds
- k. Wellness World
 - i. A digital wellness portal for Canadian universities
 - ii. To simplify a process of accessing mental health resources, community engagement, and wellness materials
 - iii. Resource that we will have access to
 - iv. Should be coming to McGill as soon as next term
 - v. VC met with them at the start of the project over the summer
- l. Queer Coalition
 - i. We're part of it but VC doesn't attend meeting because they're mostly aimed at high school and CEGEP students and focuses on personal matters
- m. QHM drop in sessions
 - i. Joint effort between us, CL&E and the UGE
 - ii. Goal: have drop-in sessions for first year students to hang out and ask questions
 - iii. Very low attendance though
- n. Plans for next semester
 - i. Going to keep attending meetings and making sure LGBTQ+ students are represented
 - ii. Do whatever new projects come up!
- o. Feedback, questions, comments, concerns
- 6. Communication Coordinator
 - a. Feedback, questions, comments, concerns
 - b. Instagram
 - i. Been using Instagram stories more to cross-promote with other groups with similar mandates

- ii. Started using alt-text for people with screenreaders
- c. Facebook
 - i. Mostly have been using the Social Distancing Group as the spot to promote and share our own events
 - ii. QM Facebook forum has been used more for sharing other people's/other organizations' posts
 - iii. There's low engagement on Facebook and Instagram posts, so we're looking into paid advertising for next semester's events
 - iv. Notes no longer exist, so we're linking meeting minutes posted to the website instead
- d. Listserv
 - i. We didn't get our big wave of sign ups that we normally get at the beginning of the year during Activities Night
 - ii. Been trying to provide resources/calm space for people in the emails - please let me know if you feel that's working!
 - iii. Have worked to make them more accessible by using easy-to-read fonts, font sizes, and colours (but please let me know what's lacking)
 - iv. Pets in listserv got great feedback :)
 - v. Complaint: not enough pictures of Lemon specifically

7. Events Coordinators

- a. Overview slides:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1AVyghKk1YA2YXPG9WvqRjPi8_nVW3McidicBsaWYkLg/edit?usp=sharing
- b. Shift Online
 - i. Been promoting a lot with comms because can't promote in person like we used to
- c. Gaymes and Movie Nights and Breakfast
 - i. More small events compared to last year because they worked really well during the summer
 - ii. Breakfast every other week
 - 1. Decent regular turnout
 - iii. Movie nights and Gaymes nights alternate

- iv. Been holding them on jitsi because screen sharing is easier
- v. Movie nights get less turnout bc they require a stable internet connection and bigger time commitment

d. Larger Events

- i. 1-2 per month
- ii. QM & McSway Open Mic
 - 1. June
- iii. Art show
 - 1. July
- iv. Zine launch
 - 1. August
 - 2. Decent turnout
 - 3. Promoted LGBTQ+ artists
 - 4. We also have the product of a zine full of book recommendations, resources, and art
- v. Board games night
 - 1. September
 - 2. Got some new people and had decent turnout
 - 3. Got good feedback that people had missed them
- vi. Cafe with CL&E for Queer History Month
- vii. Poetry share in October in collaboration with UGE and Peer Health Ambassadors
 - 1. Low attendance but still nice
- viii. Scavenger hunt
 - 1. List of items in the event and shared together
 - 2. Riddles in listserv as leadup to the event
- ix. 2 support circles with PSC
 - 1. November
 - 2. QTBIPOC and queer support circle
 - 3. Good vibe but low turnout
- x. Trivia night
 - 1. november
 - 2. Successful, had many people

3. Used Kahoot

- e. Facebook seems to be hiding our events
- f. Overall a pretty good semester!
- g. BaCoN
 - i. Talking about new names for the SSMU and Peel buildings
 - ii. Have been making a lot of headway on that
 - iii. Trying to prioritize names related to queer and BIPOC-related names
 - iv. Currently finishing up getting submissions
 - v. Sounds like we will likely end up with name that highlights people who've contributed to making McGill who were not cis, straight, white men
- h. Feedback, questions, comments, concerns

8. Finance Coordinator

- a. Overview slides:
[GA November 2020 Finance](#)
- b. 2020-2021 Budget
 - i. \$40K budget from student fees, plus \$22K surplus from underspending due to COVID
 - ii. \$1000 from donation from Montreal Pride
 - iii. Made two budgets for the year, one with the funding for the Gender and Sexuality commissioner funding
 - 1. Both are linked in the above powerpoint
 - iv. Budget is made assuming no in-person events
 - v. Mostly focuses on gender-affirming products and safer sex supplies
- c. Service credit card
 - i. Helpful in ordering resources in particular
 - ii. Previously ordering resources through the regular financial/SSMU route didn't work
- d. Other activities
 - i. Processed donation from Mtl Pride

- ii. Prepared documents for credit card reconciliation
- e. Future projects
 - i. Organize email and google drive for future coordinators because the previous ones were very disorganized
 - ii. Re-establishing discretionary funding so that we can donate to other organizations
- f. Feedback, questions, comments, concerns

9. Resource Coordinator

- a. Website Redesign
 - i. Changed colour scheme
 - ii. Reorganized it to make it more accessible
 - iii. Added COVID information
 - iv. Added Mission Statement
 - v. Added pages for Working Groups and Social groups
 - vi. Added a page for the library (needs to be removed)
- b. E-Library Project
 - i. Created an online e-library for the duration of our office library not being accessible
 - ii. Realized it violates copyright law so we ended that very fast
 - iii. Would have to work out specific agreement with each of the specific publishers in order to do it correctly and properly
- c. Peer Support Circles
 - i. As mentioned by events
- d. Remote Resources
 - i. Collaborating with the UGE to avoid overlap of products we're offering for as long as we're online (not permanent)
 - 1. Only product we're both offering are binders
 - 2. Catalog includes breast forms (new this year), binders, condoms, lube, gaffs, menstrual cups
 - ii. We have a pre-order form that people have been filling out
- e. Future plans
 - i. Start fulfilling orders

- ii. Looking forward to Rad Sex Month
- iii. Organizing emails and google drive
- f. Feedback, questions, comments, concerns
 - i. E-library may be more doable to put a digital collection together
 - 1. Natan will reach out to Brooklyn about how to do this
 - 2. Other option is going through the Library Improvement Funds
 - ii. Are you planning on doing a Pink Cherry order?
 - 1. No, not possible this year
 - iii. How are breast forms working?
 - 1. On an as-ordered basis because they require individual measurements

10. General Members

a. Active Groups

People who would like to start a group or need support in running the group should contact VC

- i. Trans-working (active)
- ii. QT BIPOC-working (active)
- iii. LGBT&D-recreational (inactive - no one leading it, there is one person who is interested)
- iv. Queer Book Club-recreational (active)
- v. Hey Gaymers- recreational (inactive - no one leading it)
- vi. Queer Grad Club- working (active)
- b. New groups
 - i. Bisexual- working (active)
 - 1. Not technically a group yet because it started after the last GA
 - 2. This is a group for all people who identify as non-monosexual
 - 3. Vote on accepting the Bisexual working group as a new working group:

(anonymous voting - records will be written as 3. yes, 3. no, or 3. abstain)

- a. Yes: 7
- b. No: 0
- c. Abstain: 0

- 4. Vote to give Bisexual Working Group a \$100/semester budget for when things are in person again:

(anonymous voting - records will be written as 4. yes, 4. no, or 4. abstain)

- a. Yes: 7
- b. No: 0
- c. Abstain: 0

- c. Feedback, questions, comments, concerns

- i. Idea for QM to set up a legal fund to cover the cost of legal name changes and other document changes
 - 1. Brooklyn is also trying to set it up through SSMU's health insurance
 - 2. We're not allowed to donate to individuals though, so this might not work. Would have to talk to accounting to see if it's doable
 - 3. This is something we'd be interested in, but haven't been able to do this so far
 - 4. Maybe if we set up a specific fund this could work. QM used to offer scholarships in previous years, unclear if this was allowed

11.Meeting Adjourned

- a. Closing statements

Election officer: Brooklyn Frizzle

Election officer contact: brooklyn.frizzle@mail.mcgill.ca

You can contact them over the next 3 weeks if you would like to confirm any of the votes as they will keep a record of the chat including all the votes.