

Watching what's happening on SASS and the SRA, I'm Adeola, the SRA observer and you're listening to SASSwatch.

Welcome to the November/December podcast of SASSwatch. Hope your holiday break was filled with family and fun.

As you know, the timestamp of each part (Need to know, get to know, get in the know and know more) will be listed in the transcript if you want to jump to a specific point.

Need To Know - 0:45

Get To Know - 1:25

Get In The Know - 7:30

Know More - 13:10

NEED TO KNOW

This will be a short section, just gathering all the things you have to look forward to from SASSEX in Winter 2020!

We kick off the year with Ice Skating and a Winter Sib Supper. There also looks to be a Mental Health and Photography Community Event, and Wandering Wednesday starting back up!

February brings in TriSci Trivia and Euchre, keeping in mind the numerous events like Agora, Milk and Cookies and other Level Events sure to happen.

There's so much to look forward to in March with big events like ArtSci Musical, Winter Kaffehaus and ArtSci formal. Can't forget the second General Meeting and 2020-2021 SASSEX elections, either.

GET TO KNOW

Tinson and Maya interview!

GET IN THE KNOW

We're covering three important meetings in this, so stay with me.

SRA meeting 19K interesting as the BOD was not present at the beginning due to an OUSA meeting, so things got moved around.

We had a presentation from Mac Marching Band, which is actually a pretty cool initiative. With members requiring no prior experience, you can sign up, receive an instrument and private

lessons for free. Plus, trips to Niagara and Montreal to play - sign me up! Unfortunately, their presentation was about the SCI and how running the club this year will be difficult with it.

I can't believe we're still talking about CSSA in 2020, but this is the season finale, I promise. 19K brought a Yonge Street Lawyer into the Council Room and things got heated. CSSA also had a delegation from the floor and spoke in a 40-min presentation and 20 min QP.

To summarize (directions to an MSU summary: Please see page 5 of the attached document below):

Question Period lasted longer than 20 minutes, and went through many back and forths such as if the SRA abided by Club Operating Policy or not, or if evidence was biased or not. If you are interested, it's in the same document on page 5-8. It concluded with the SRA confident in deratification because they had consulted legal counsel. It wasn't the last we saw of CSSA in 2019, though.

Our last delegation from the floor was a Pro Democracy Presentation. For context, there was a Lennon Wall demonstration in Mills Plaza in solidarity with HK protesters. For HK protest context, there have been protests for over 5 months against government power increase, now with increasing violence from the government. Demonstrators in HK have used Lennon Walls as a SRA 19K document. At Mac, the Lennon Wall demonstration was SRA 19K document red.

QP essentially was about what the statement should look like (Page 9 of the attached document).

Then a Sil reporter came in, and in my opinion, exposed a lot of the discrepancies in the CSSA/deratification operating policy/SRA/MSU system. It was a heated, convoluted conversation, and points to the fact that the MSU/SRA Club Ratification Process is also convoluted. It seems as though it is not structured to stop problematic clubs, but let the good clubs through consider the volume of clubs present here at Mac. But between multiple communication issues and procedural errors spanning back to June 2018 that the SRA and BOD admitted, I am sure the Sil reporter had lots to write about.

After this though, in a very long document, the MSU prez clearly outlined why CSSA was deratified and it passed unanimously. Done, deal, deratified. Whew.

In comparison to other meetings of the semester 19L was a breeze. We had a lot of reports and two delegations from the floor - Mac solar car and engineers without borders. Highlights from the reports include:

- First Year Council is having difficulty getting together, resulting in a lack of planning events. They have run a couple things related to Meet and Greets and House Hunting. First years, look forward to seeing more of them in 2020

- University Affairs has made strides in Health Services Review and hopes to crack into Campus Policing this semester.
- The VP Admin has hired an external consultant to help weather the effect of the SCl. More to come on that in 2020, I suppose.

In concluding the meeting, there was much debate on the HK statement so the SRA ended up not passing it, so everyone can rewrite.

19M was also quite simple, as it got postponed to exam season. Apart from the typical reports, highlights include:

- Final Opt Out Numbers
- OUSA General Assembly Summary
- Delegations from OPIRG and Incite Mag
 - OPIRG (Ontario Public Interest Research Groups) is an organization with groups on many universities. The Mac Chapter is focused on social justice and environmental integrity. Fun fact, you are a member of Mac OPIRG! Congrats, unless you opted out. As a member, you can sign materials out from their library in MUSC (like a button maker!), attend skill development workshops, vote at the General Meeting and run for the BOD
 - A large part of OPIRG are their Public Interest Projects. Some notable ones include Meals With a Purpose, Turtles of Cootes, Bleed-Free Mac and Threadworks
 - Check out their website in the timestamp for more details
 - Incite Mag is Mac's creative writing and arts magazine. With nearly 70 publications under their belt, this monthly magazine aims to unite creative minds in self expression, collaboration and dialogue. They also host artsy events too.
 - Their magazines are available all around campus and on their website and like their FB page if you're interested in keeping up to date on their events

KNOW MORE

We, the people, of the United States

Whereas the Provinces of Canada have expressed their desire to be federally united

Those are the introductions to the US and Canadian Constitutions. Did you know that ArtSci also has a constitution? I took some time to actually read the 13-page document, it's a real page-turner, and I'm glad to present the coolest things from it.

First, in Article 5, the ArtSci Constitution - or ASC - states that non-students can be granted SASS membership on an honorary basis by a majority vote of SASSex. (In Article 2, student is defined as a person registered in a course of study, so a non-student would be someone NOT registered in a course of study at Mac, so anyone) But then Article 5.3 whittles that down

saying this only applies to former SASS members who were active in the community. A sort of force ghost type concept.

Second, any member of SASSEX can request (the constitution says the request has to be in writing, but that's not defined so I'm sure an email is okay), to present at a SASSEX meeting three days before. Also, any member can attend SASSEX meetings anytime too.

The constitution also says there should be a physical copy of the Constitution in 3038, don't know if that's a thing.

Third, if 20 ArtScis can get together and sign a request for a general meeting, a meeting HAS to be called by the earliest possible date. And any decisions reached at that meeting are binding on SASSEX.

Fourth, if a SASSEX member is missing for three consecutive meetings, the Prez can say that their spot is vacated (I think that's a nice way of saying they're kicked off SASSEX) and all SASS members are to be alerted of this

Fifth, the Prez is the only person allowed to interpret the Constitution and any SASS by-laws. But the interpretation can be veto-ed by a SASSEX $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote

In Article 11, the Program Advisors have a lot of surprising roles to fulfill. The JPA is supposed to Act like a liaison between Level I and Level II, while the SPA is the same for III and IVs. According to the Constitution, they're also supposed to attend Counsel of Instructors meetings as observers, hold one ArtSci Closed forum and one Academic Forum per term, compile minutes from both forums, compile an End of Term report for all of ArtSci and organize the Thesis Gala. Wow.

Our new Athletics and Recreation officer is a new role! They're in charge of publicizing all intramural games, have a public list of SASS intramural teams and helping recruit members.

But of course, this gets reviewed every year - you never know what might change. Take a glimpse at the ASC sometime, and expand the limit of which you exercise your rights as an ArtSci!

We are in 2020 now. On top of your resolutions, consider tuning into SASSwatch monthly as one. Stay tuned for the January podcast.



Student Representative Assembly Meeting 19K
Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH111

Called to Order at 5:04pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present	Alam, Alkasef, Belliveau, Dawdy, Figueiredo, Hankins, Herscovitch, Homsy, Hu, Jangra, Lee, McDermott, Mohamed, Pagnello, Reddy, Sarhan, Singh, Sinnige, Zheng
Absent Excused:	De Fazio, Hackett, Johnston, Marando, Williams
Absent	Au-Yeung, Enuiyin, Ganesalingan, Grewal Kaur, Li, Mesic, Zhang
Late	Acri, Hassan, Kampman
Others Present:	Adeola Egbeyemi (MSU Member), Tevin Heath (Senator, Faculty of Science), Jess Anderson (AVP Finance) Emma Ferguson (Recording Secretary)
Chair	Maryanne Oketch

TERRITORY RECOGNITION

- The SRA would like to recognize today that we are situated on traditional Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabe territories through the 'Dish with One Spoon Wampum Treaty'.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Figueiredo, **seconded** by Sinnige that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as presented.

Amendment

Moved by Figueiredo, **seconded** by McDermott to move Report Period before Delegation from the Floor.

- Figueiredo explained that members of the Board were at OUSA and she wanted to give them some time to get back.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Figueiredo, **seconded** by Sinnige to add Mac CSSA to Delegation from the Floor item #3.

- Figueiredo stated that they should be given the time to speak.

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Sinnige, **seconded** by Jangra that the Assembly add the following motion to Business:

"Moved by ____, seconded by ____ that the Assembly open nominations for SRA members to the following award committees:

- Honour M (1)
- MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
- J. Lynn Watson (1)

- MSU Spirit (1)”

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Sinnige, **seconded** by Jangra that the Assembly add the following motion to Business:

Moved by ____, seconded by ____ that the Assembly open nominations for MSU members to the following award committees:

- Honour M (1)
- Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence (1)
- MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
- J. Lynn Watson (1)

Vote on Amendment

In Favour: 20 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

Amendment

Moved by Figueiredo, **seconded** by McDermott to move Business item #1 after Delegation from the Floor item #1.

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Figueiredo, **seconded** by Lee to switch the order of Delegation from the Floor item #2 and #3.

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Figueiredo, **seconded** by Jangra to add the following motion to Business:

“Moved by ____, seconded ____ to reconsider the deratification of Mac CSSA.”

- Figueiredo explained that this was just to add it to the agenda for consideration.

Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Amendment

Moved by Figueiredo, **seconded** by Hankins that Business Item #5 be moved after Delegation from the Floor item #2.

- Figueiredo – so that folks can chat about the information that we receive
- Vote on Amendment

Passes Unanimously

Moved by Figueiredo, **seconded** by Sinnige that the Assembly adopt the agenda, as amended.

Passes Unanimously

ADOPTION OF MINUTES 19I & 19J

Moved by Sinnige, **seconded** by Homsy that the Assembly adopt minutes SRA 19I – October 6, 2019 and SRA 19J – October 20, 2019, as presented.

Passes Unanimously

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

- The Speaker asked observers to sign their name on the list at the back. The Speaker reminded Assembly members that they have 5 minutes of speaking rights and would be cut off to notify the Assembly.

REPORT PERIOD

1. **Health Sciences – Alam presented**
2. **Humanities – Herscovitch presented**
3. **Kinesiology – Zheng presented**
4. **Provincial & Federal Affairs – McDermott presented**
5. **Finance – Jess Anderson presented**
6. **Executive Board – Homsy presented**
7. **President – Figueiredo presented**
8. **Elections Report – Peter Belesiotis presented**

Questions

- McDermott stated there were a lot of disqualifications during FYC, and asked why that was uneventful. Belesiotis stated there are typically a number of disqualifications for FYC, due to not following set out rules.

DELEGATION FROM THE FLOOR

1. **McMaster Marching Band - Graeme Noble & Olivia Heid presented**

Parameters

Moved by Alam, **seconded** by Homsy that parameters be set at 15 minutes presentation, 10 minutes question period.

Passes Unanimously

- Spoke in the allotted time.

Questions

- Sinnige asked if they thought SCI had impacted them heavily. Noble responded that any amount of money that gets taken away turns into time and effort we need to spend as a team. Have to ensure the event schedule is the most profitable it can be.
- Reddy asked if the money from membership fees increased. Noble said yes, but they were doing a slightly different system moving forward: no mandatory fee, only a deposit.
- Jangra asked how much money carries over year to year. Noble explained that all the referendum money is given near the end of the school year, and is spent over the summer.
- Sinnige asked if they felt they could continue to operate on the current budget or if they would need an increase. Noble stated that it would be complicated to go above a dollar per student with SCI, but the more money the better the program and the more opportunity. Noble stated that they could run on their budget successfully but it will likely be difficult.

BUSINESS

1. Committee of the Whole

Moved by McDermott, **seconded** by Sinnige that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the McMaster Marching Band presentation.

In Favour: 0 Opposed: 19 Abstentions: 3

Opposed: Alkasef, Sinnige, Hu, Reddy, Singh, Belliveau, Mohammed, Herscovitch, Homs, Jangra, Alum, Williams, Hassan, Hankins, Lee, Kampman, Pagnello, Sarhan, Zheng

Abstained: Johnston, De Fazio, Dawdy

Motion Fails

Moved by Figueiredo, **seconded** by Lee that the Assembly recess for 10 minutes.

In Favour: 18 Opposed: 2 Abstentions: 2

Opposed: Hankins, Hassan

Abstained: Reddy, Dawdy

Motion Passes

Recessed at 5:58pm

Called to Order at 6:08pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present

Acari, Alam, Alkasef, Dawdy, De Fazio, Figueiredo, Hankins, Hassan, Herscovitch, Homs, Hu, Jangra, Johnston, Kampman, Lee, McDermott, Mohamed, Pagnello, Reddy, Sarhan, Singh, Sinnige, Williams, Zheng

Absent Excused:

Hackett, Marando

Absent

Au-Yeung, Enuiyin, Ganesalingan, Grewal Kaur, Li, Mesic, Zhang

Late

Others Present:

Emma Ferguson (Recording Secretary), Adeola Egbeyemi (MSU Member), Tevin Heath (Senator, Faculty of Science), Jess Anderson (AVP Finance) Emma Ferguson (Recording Secretary)

Chair

Maryanne Oketch

DELEGATION FROM THE FLOOR

2. Mac CSSA – Sam Wu presented

Parameters

Moved by Figueiredo, **seconded** Sinnige that parameters be set at 40 minute presentation, 20 minute question period.

In Favour: 23 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 32
Abstained: Herscovitch, De Fazio
Motion Passes

- Sam Wu introduced herself as the council for Mac CSSA and asked the Assembly to reconsider their decision to deratify Mac CSSA.
- *The following is a summary of the presentation given by Sam Wu:*

- Mac CSSA has existed for 35 years. The club organizes events, gives support for international students and more.
- The club did not inform and will not inform any McMaster students events that are critical of the Chinese government to the Chinese government.
- Although, ○ Chinese Consulate officials attend CSSA events occasionally and informally.
- The Chinese government and other CSSA groups have nothing to do with daily activities, finances, membership of Mac CSSA.
- There is no basis to deratify Mac CSSA because the club did not notify the consulate about the event in February. They did not send the joint statement to the consulate. The club never reported and never will report on McMaster students, including those critical of the Chinese government. The club respects freedom of expression.
- A now McMaster alumni, not a member of Mac CSSA, contacted the consulate about the event. He then prepared a statement without any input from Mac CSSA. He then elected signatures of several McMaster clubs including Mac CSSA.
- A Former CSSA President chose to put their signature on the statement because they believed an emergency was occurring. They exercised their freedom of expression rights to sign the document. He nor the club were trying to intimidate or harass McMaster students or their families in China.
- The clubs does not pose a danger to McMaster students.
- The decision to deratify was based on conjecture, speculation and biased assumptions.
- The deratification is a result of procedural unfairness. They were not given fair and due process given the nature of the decision. They were singled out, as other McMaster clubs also signed on to the joint statement.
- and amongst ○ Reviewed June SRA documentation and the Clubs Operating Policy.
- other things, ○ The SRA failed to notify Mac CSSA before the decision.
- The anonymous statement made at the SRA meeting was inflammatory.
- The SRA did not respect the CSSA and the questions asked indicated a reasonable apprehension of bias. Statements made and questions asked indicated the SRA prejudged the club informed the Chinese consulate about the event.
- Presentation by SRA member Singh clearly demonstrated that he was not a partial decision maker and was in favour of deratifying the club.

Questions

- Sinnige asked if the statement the Mac CSSA made that they did inform the consulate was incorrect. Wu stated that a lot of members of Mac CSSA do not have English as their first language. The joint statement was prepared by a McMaster alumni without any input from Mac CSSA and they just added their signature. The club did not notify the consulate about the event.

- Sinnige asked why the statement was not rescinded if the consulate was not informed by them and the majority of Mac CSSA did not agree to the statement. Wu stated that it was an opportunity to express their political views and they have a right to freedom of expression.
- Figueiredo asked what the spirit of the statement about informing the consulate was, understanding that there are language barriers. Wu stated that many students were going through emotional turmoil at the time and it was on members viewpoint.
- Acri clarified if the CSSA added on their name but it was not their initiative to do the letters. Wu stated that signatures were collected, and there was no intention to intimidate.
- Hankins asked how CSSA has been affected since deratification. Wu stated that it resulted in them not being recognized as a club, that has helped a lot of international students.
- Alkasef asked if joining their name to reporting an event to a government that may have the ability to harm people is an action of expressing political freedom. Wu stated that the club did not report students or events critical of the Chinese government.
- Sinnige stated that in the approved translation provided it stated that the consulate was informed. Sinnige asked if there was anyway to prove that the club did not inform the consulate. Wu stated that they were telling the Assembly what the club told them. Wu stated that it was the role of the Clubs Administrator to investigate misconduct and ultimately the Administrator recommended the club for ratification.
- Johnston stated that originally Wu stated that the club represented multiple political viewpoints, but later said the club wished to express its entire political viewpoint. Johnston asked for clarification. Wu stated that most members of the club had a particular viewpoint.
- Johnston asked why it was not signed individually. Wu stated that most members were really concerned about the event and did have a particular political viewpoint.
- Figueiredo asked what the intent of talking about the consulate in the statement was. Wu stated that she already explained the intent, and it was not to threaten or intimidate.
- Sinnige asked if it would be considered a threat that the letter spoke about informing the consulate. Wu stated that there was no intention to threaten students critical of the Chinese government.
- Alam asked why Mac CSSA hosted an event with Guelph earlier in the year if it is not associated with other organizations. Wu reviewed Operating Policy – Clubs section 4.2 and stated the event was not brought up at all during the deratification process.
- Hankins stated that there seems to be a misunderstanding that the SRA disbanded the club. Hankins read out the MSU Club privileges. Hankins stated that the MSU does not allow a club to exist or not, it allows certain privileges. Hankins asked how the CSSA has been affected by the deratification. Wu stated that Hankins just listed all the privileges that got taken away.
- Singh stated they were very supportive of freedom of speech. Reviewed the Dominion Society situation. Singh asked if Wu could see how the logic is in line with deratifying the Dominion Society. Wu stated that section 2.2 of Operating Policy – Clubs says you can not censor a club for their beliefs, and the MSU has censored this club for its political viewpoints.
- De Fazio stated that there are students on campus that feel they are in danger. De Fazio stated that they represent science students and want them to feel safe on campus. De Fazio stated that Wu had not noted any of those people that have said they felt unsafe. De Fazio asked why Wu or their client decided not to recognize the voices that felt their safety was infringed upon. Wu stated that De Fazio demonstrated bias and prejudgement that they reported to the consulate in the question. Wu stated that students were not in danger, and that they felt that was likely a result of the perpetuation of the SRA. Wu stated that students that feel unsafe, should not.

Moved by Sinnige, **seconded** by Herscovitch to exhaust the Speaker's List.

In Favour: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

- McDermott asked if there is any evidence to show within the Mac CSSA that they disagree with what has happened. Wu stated that this was in the domain of the Clubs Administrator to investigate and the club executives have no contact about events with the Chinese government.
- Lee asked how Wu would explain that students have come into Council Chambers with masks on because they do not feel safe, and that emails are sent from constituents who do not feel safe. Wu stated that there is bias about the Mac CSSA. Students should not feel scared of the political views of the club. The club did not intimidate or harass students and that belief is perpetuated by things SRA members have said.
- Hankins asked if any specific events had been materially impacted by the deratification. Wu stated that the club lost all the privileges listed.
- Lee ceded their time to Kampman. Kampman asked that if they signed the letter to express their political views, is that not agreeing with what is happening. Wu answered that the club adding its name was not intended to intimidate or harass, and it never encourages students to report on other students and would never do so in the future.
- Singh stated that there seemed to be a lack of understanding that the SRA is the highest governing body, and they delegate tasks to individuals like the Clubs Administrator. Singh asked Wu if they understand that the SRA has final say. Wu stated that she understood they were saying that the SRA can circumvent all laid out operating policies.
- Sinnige asked regardless of the intent of them singing, how do you reconcile that they made students feel unsafe on campus and students feel threatened. Wu stated that students are scared because they think the club reported and that belief was perpetuated by an SRA member and other students. Wu stated that the SRA is censoring this club, referencing Operating Policy – Clubs 2.2.
- Williams asked how there would be confusion with English not being their first language because the statement was officially translated from Mandarin to English. Wu Stated that there was no intention to intimidate or harass and they did not notify the Chinese government.
- Pagniello stated that is unclear that Mac CSSA understands the gravity of signing the document, and it would be helpful if Mac CSSA expressed disapproval. Pagniello asked why no statement had been prepared. Wu answered that they would not rescind a statement expressing political views, and there was no encouragement to report on students.
- Acri asked if Wu could further elaborate on the role of Chinese consulate officials being at some informal events and what the CSSA would classify as an informal event. Wu stated that those visits were solely for the purpose of explaining consulate services available to students and help them with the adjustment of living in a completely different country. They happen once every few years.
- Hankins ceded their time to Hackett. Hackett stated that to his understand, a person outside of the club was responsible. Hackett asked why the club had not come out publicly to say they did not write the statement themselves, and the club did not pass/agree to making the statement. Wu stated that the statement was an expression of their political views which they are entitled to and what you are asking is to withdraw their political views which is contrary to Operating Policy – Clubs section 2.2.
- Johnston asked if the former resident of Mac CSSA agreed to use their signature on the statement. Wu said yes.
- Marando asked why Wu never referenced sections 4.8 and 4.10 of the clubs operating policy regarding the SRA ratifying the clubs recommended by the Clubs Administrator. Wu stated that in the June 18th Memo the Clubs Administrator strongly recommended the ratification of the club, and only in September a motion to deratify was brought forward. No reasonable offers were made for the club to respond to this case.
- Alkasef stated that there were student genuinely scared of the club and saying they were simply scared because of a mistake is an insult. Alkasef stated that they refused to answer questions while present, even simple questions. Alkasef asked if Wu still felt the decision was completely bias.
- Wu said they did. Wu explained that questions were not answered at the last meeting because the current president was not aware and English is not his first language.

- Singh ceded their time to Pagnielo. Pagnielo stated that the CSSA was in their right to believe that what happened at the February 11 event was absurd Anti-Chine speech, and attacked the Chinese government. Pagnielo asked why the part about signing the statement reporting the event the consulate of China on February 12 could not be retracted, as that is a separate issue. Pagnielo asked if Wu understood the distinction and why that part of the letter could not be retracted. Wu stated that the statement was an expression of political views and the CSSA did not report on students or events critical of the Chinese government. Wu stated she was unsure why retraction was being brought up.
- Figueiredo ceded their time to Marando. Marando asked if Wu was aware that clubs are accountable to the actions of their executive officers. Wu stated that the grounds of deratification was that the club was involved in intimidation to silence free speech in possible connection with the Chinese government, of which there was no such contact. No basis to deratify the club.

Moved by Williams, **seconded** by Aciri that the Assembly recess for five minutes.

Passes Unanimously

Recessed at 7:42pm

Called to Order at 7:49pm

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present	Aciri, Alam, Alkasef, Dawdy, De Fazio, Figueiredo, Hankins, Hassan, Herscovitch, Homs, Hu, Jangra, Johnston, Kampman, Lee, McDermott, Mohamed, Pagnielo, Reddy, Sarhan, Singh, Sinnige, Williams, Zheng
Absent Excused:	Hackett, Marando
Absent	Au-Yeung, Enuiyin, Ganesalingan, Grewal, Kaur, Li, Mesic, Zhang
Late	
Others Present:	Emma Ferguson (Recording Secretary), Adeola Egbeyemi (MSU Member), Tevin Heath (Senator, Faculty of Science), Jess Anderson (AVP Finance) Emma Ferguson (Recording Secretary)
Chair	Maryanne Oketch

BUSINESS

5. Committee of the Whole – MAC CSSA

Moved by Sinnige, **seconded** by Marando that the Assembly move into Committee of the Whole to discuss the deratification of Mac CSSA.

Passes Unanimously

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by Hankins to rise and report.

Passes Unanimously

Rise and Report

- Hackett stated that main sentiment of discussion was regardless of the clubs intent, the action caused students to come forward and say they feel unsafe on campus, and for that reason the SRA would be upholding the decision to deratify. Regardless if the intent of signing the letter was not to intimidate, it aids a certain group in surveilling students on campus which is directly against what the SRA is in favour of. After speaking with legal counsel the SRA is confident with how the situation had been handled.

DELEGATION FROM THE FLOOR

3. Pro-Democracy Presentation – Jonathan Hai & Group presented

Parameters

Moved by De Fazio, **seconded** by Homsy that the parameters be set at 20 minutes presentation, 10 minutes questions.

Passes Unanimously

Moved by DeFazio, **seconded** by McDermott to extend speaking time by 10 minutes.

Passes Unanimously

Questions

- McDermott asked if they had written a statement of if there was anything in particular they wanted to see. Delegate A stated that some suggestions were sent to SRA members.
- De Fazio asked what the most important thing was for the SRA to do for them. Delegate A stated that if the SRA does not speak up it will dissuade students from protesting in the future, and if the SRA shows solidarity it will be clear that they have a right to exist on this campus and protest peacefully.
- Sinnige asked if they would be willing to work with the MSU to release a statement. The speakers agreed.
- De Fazio read a press release statement from March 27, 2017 and asked if it would be an appropriate format for them. The speakers agreed.
- Belliveau ceded time to Tevin Heath. Heath asked if any investigation on the individual had started and if they went to Campus Security for their own safety. Hai stated that campus security was contacted and an investigation was started. Hai stated the investigation is proceeding well.
- Pagniello asked what the statement focus would be: what is permitted as counter protest or as a more generalized political statement. Delegate A stated that it is important to send a strong message that we are not allowed to exercise rights through violence and intimidation. It is important for the SRA to stand by the protestors and also condemn the violence and intimidation itself.
- Sinnige ceded their time to Tevin Heath. Heath asked how they would envision the University responding. Hai stated that they did not want to put the University in a position to pick a political side, but they would like the University to allow them to continue to spread their message without fear of violence and intimidation. Delegate A stated that it is the University's responsibility to have a safe learning environment and potentially they could do some sort of review.
- Pagniello ceded their time to an unnamed observer. The observer asked how they envisioned issuing the statement and how that is framed without falling into the pitfalls of other groups that might claim to have precedent to have their voices heard. The observer gave an example of pro-life groups. Delegate A stated that the MSU should stand up for their rates because they were attacked, and would likewise expect the MSU to stand up to other groups if they were attacked.

INFORMATION PERIOD

- Marando stated that if anyone wants to write a statement for the next meeting or another meeting we, it can be done similar to what he and Brittany did for the CSSA.

QUESTION PERIOD

- Jangra ceded their time to Shamir Malik. Malik asked why it was thought that the CSSA was on probation, and then that turned out not to be true, and asked why the Clubs Administrator was not informed after they were deratified. Marando stated that the SRA recommendation for probation was not done in the motion and it was a procedural error that can be rectified moving forward. Marando explained that a full clubs ratification process review was being done through the Internal Governance committee. Marando stated that the Clubs Administrator was notified that day about the deratification.
- Reddy ceded their time to Shamir Malik. Malik asked how much time the CSSA was given to prepare the statement for the ratification. Marando explained they were informed on the Monday following the SRA meeting of the deratification. Marando asked the Speaker for clarification on exact timelines.
- The Speaker informed the Assembly the CSSA was told they could appeal in a delegation on September 30. The Speaker stated that the CSSA confirmed they would be delegating on the Monday before the meeting, and they were able to meet an hour before the meeting to learn about the delegation process.
- McDermott asked how the HR report was going. Figueiredo stated that the Admin Team Research Assistant has been hired and will be working to review the specific workplace harassment policy with consultation with EIO. Figueiredo advised that the review itself had been pushed back multiple times due to needing more information. Figueiredo explained the University is currently reviewing their own policies, and they want to ensure the policies align.
- Jangra ceded their time to Shamir Malik. Malik asked if the board was saying there had been no miscommunication between the SRA, BOD and Clubs Admin during the ratification of the CSSA. Marando said no.
- Acri ceded their time to Shamir Malik. Malik asked for clarification of the communication issue. Marando clarified that the Board is a part of the SRA. Marando explained that the SRA thought that Mac CSSA was on probation because the way it currently works, the previous year Clubs Administrator does club interviews and creates the memo for the SRA. Marando explained that moving forward there was a clubs policy review happening and that there was not miscommunication during the appeals process.
- De Fazio ceded their time to Shamir Malik. Malik asked why has the MSU not issued a statement regarding CSSA deratification. Marando stated that it would be hopefully released later in the meeting.
- Jangra ceded their time to Shamir Malik. Malik asked if there is an explanation for the length of time to release a statement on the deratification. Hackett stated that the MSU not SRA has a timeframe where a statement needs to be written.
- Herscovitch ceded their time to Jangra. Jangra asked if the decision on the deratification was constitutional. Marando stated that the constitution states the Speaker has the right to interpret all policy and bylaws. The clubs operating policy refers to the SRA ratification for all clubs, and there is no policy that indicates and SRA appeals process.
- Herscovitch ceded their time to Shamir Malik. Seems to be a general consensus that intention does not matter that the exec of CSSA contacted other clubs, why is only the CSSA ratified.
- Jangra ceded their time to Shamir Malik.
- Hankins objected to Jangra's third time speaking.

In Favour: 4 Opposed: 7 Abstentions: 10

Opposed: De Fazio, Belliveau, Homs, Jangra, Pagnello, Acri, Singh

Abstained: Johnston, Sinnige, Marando, Reddy, Alam, Williams, Hackett, Dawdy, Lee, Kampman

Motion Fails

- Malik asked if the SRA assessed bias when they were deratifying the CSSA and asked how resources were used.
- Singh stated that they coordinated with constituents and went through various sources, ensuring their resources were fair and unbiased.
- Hankins asked Williams if the statement should be deferred to the next meeting. Williams said no, because all the evidence had been looked at and the issue was continuously being pushed back.

- Hackett asked Marando why it should not be pushed. Marando stated that they wouldn't be there at the next SRA meeting and because he worked on the statement he would prefer to be here while it was discussed.

BUSINESS

2. Opening SRA Seats on Awards Committee

Moved by Johnston, **seconded** by Sinnige that the Assembly open nominations for SRA members to the following award committees:

- Honour M (1)
- MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
- J. Lynn Watson (1)
- MSU Spirit (1)

Passes Unanimously

3. Opening MSU Seats on Awards

Moved by Marando, **seconded** by Jangra that the Assembly open nominations for MSU members to the following award committees:

- Honour M (1)
- Rudy Heinzl Award of Excellence (1)
- MSU Merit Scholarship (1)
- J. Lynn Watson (1)

Passes Unanimously

4. Reconsider the Reconsideration of Mac CSSA

Moved by ____, **seconded** by ____ that the Assembly reconsider the deratification decision of Mac CSSA.

- No mover.
- Motion fails.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Sinnige, **seconded** by Acri to consider the following motion:

"Moved by ____, seconded by ____, that the SRA explore and write a statement in reference to the incident provided in the pro-democracy delegation."

- Sinnige stated that the delegation was good and the Assembly should be considering this.
- Hackett asked who would be writing it.
- Sinnige said anyone who wants can help.
- Williams stated that last time the SRA felt this was not the best way to go about it. Williams stated a where-as statement can be brought forward.
- Sinnige stated that this motion is to explore a statement.
- Marando said he was happy to work with whoever wanted to lead on it.

- The Assembly had a discussion whether or not the motion was binding the SRA to write a statement or not. Some SRA members felt there did not need to be a motion and this could be done anyway.
- Pagniello stated that if they were writing a statement the MSU should be releasing an opinion on numerous instances of oppression.
- Sinnige clarified that at the motion they brought forward was just to consider writing it to make sure it is addressed to be transparent.

Moved by Hackett, **seconded** by De Fazio to Call to Question.

Passes Unanimously

In Favour: 3 Opposed: 10 Abstentions: 7

Opposed: Johnston, Hackett, McDermott, Singh, Reddy, Belliveau, Homs, Jangra, Alam, Williams

Abstained: Herscovitch, Hassan, Dawdy, Lee, Kampman, Pagniello, Sarhan

Motion Fails

Moved by Marando, **seconded** by Hackett to consider the following motion:

“Moved by _____, seconded by _____ that the following statement be adopted:

***Whereas** Mac CSSA publicly confirmed, in their February 13th, 2019 statement, that they informed the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in Toronto of an event on campus critical of the government of the People’s Republic of China, and declared their intention to further monitor related developments;*

***Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly is concerned that such surveillance, intentionally or not, aids the government of the People’s Republic of China in gathering information about political activity on campus;*

***Whereas** the government of the People’s Republic of China, [according to Human Rights Watch](#), has an extensive history of attempting to silence overseas activists, dissidents, and critics by surveilling them, threatening their family members in China, or abducting them from abroad; ¹*

***Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly (SRA) believes that Mac CSSA’s act of informing on political activity on campus to the People’s Republic of China poses a significant risk that individuals on campus who criticize the government of the People’s Republic of China may be exposed to the consequences as documented by Human Rights Watch;*

***Whereas** the government of the People’s Republic of China has been reported to currently be operating a network of [concentration camps in Xinjiang](#), where over a million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities have been incarcerated as part of a [cultural genocide](#) operation and subjected to extensive [human rights violations](#); ^{2,2,3}*

***Whereas** the Student Representative Assembly believes that Mac CSSA’s act of informing on political activity on campus to the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China poses a significant threat to the freedoms, safety, and security of students on campus, especially for Chinese and Uyghur students;*

***Whereas** the Mac CSSA constitution submitted to the MSU Clubs Department states the President shall handle all day-to-day operations of the club & ensure the clubs adherence to MSU club policies;*

***Whereas** Mac CSSA acted as a signatory of the February 13th statement and shared the statement publicly via Mac CSSA WeChat, under the direction of the Mac CSSA president;*

Whereas clubs are accountable for the actions of executive officers of the club when acting and speaking on behalf of said club;

Whereas other signatories have stated in their June responses to SRA question that a Mac CSSA executive officer invited them to be signatories of the statement and their "former president finally agreed to authorize the signature";

Whereas information, testimony, and evidence were presented to SRA on September 10th and delegated on September 22nd, which pertained to actions and implications of Mac CSSA prior to September 1st;

Whereas information presented to the assembly led the SRA to reconsider their initial decision to ratify Mac CSSA due to information pertinent to the club at the time of ratification, which is within their rights as outlined in MSU Bylaws 3 & 3A;

Whereas section 5.1.3 of the MSU Clubs Operating Policy states that Class C offences "are actions, which endanger the safety or security of any person or property" and "will always result in a punitive sanction";

Whereas it is the responsibility of the Student Representative Assembly & the Speaker to interpret and uphold all MSU Operating Policies as per the MSU Constitution;

Whereas the SRA shall create, alter, or repeal MSU operating policies, within the restrictions of the constitution and bylaws of the MSU, to direct the administration of the organization and its component departments;

Whereas as determined by the Student Representative Assembly, as the policy making body of the MSU, the de-ratification and appeal process provided to Mac CSSA is in accordance with MSU Operating Policies and Bylaws;

Whereas Mac CSSA was de-ratified, having its ratification status revoked, which is different than disbandment;

Whereas the SRA is the only MSU body with the authority to ratify or revoke official club status;

Whereas club's executive council is the appeal body for decision made by the Club Administrator and does not have authority to act as an appeal body for the SRA;

Whereas Clubs Operating Policy section 5.3.2 is in reference to disbandment, not de-ratification, though it should be noted that the disbandment is subject to SRA final approval as SRA is the only body that can ratify the decision to disband the club;

Whereas no club is exempt from the ratification process, regardless of their long-standing history as an MSU club;

Whereas the Student Representative Assembly is committed to protecting student safety, countering direct and indirect pressures for students to self-censor;

Whereas Mac CSSA was provided an opportunity to provide full answer and defense through an appeal process;

Whereas all pertinent information used by the SRA to make the initial decision is publicly available online via the McMaster Students Union channels, of which Mac CSSA was made aware;

Whereas the appeal process determined by the SRA, allowing for a delegation to the floor, in-person question questions period, as well as written questions for clarification, has been exhausted;

Be it resolved that:

The Student Representative Assembly has revoked club status for the McMaster Chinese Students and Scholars Association (Mac CSSA), with the sanctions to remain in place for a minimum of one (1) full calendar year beginning September 22nd, 2019 and carrying with it the stipulation that MAC CSSA must present evidence to the satisfaction of the Clubs Administrator that they have reformed to strictly comply with policy in the future to prevent further issues of this nature. Only at this time will this sanction be lifted, and recommendation of ratification can be brought to the SRA.

Moreover, the Student Representative Assembly opposes attempts by the government of the People's Republic of China and/or MAC CSSA to directly or indirectly interfere with political activity on campus and undermine academic freedom and reminds students that they do not need to join any organizations that they do not want to, nor should conversations on campus be reported to foreign diplomatic missions that could result in impacts to the freedoms, safety, and security to students and members of the McMaster community."

- Marando explained that it was written by him and Williams, with consultation with some other members and legal counsel. All sources are cited and legal counsel deemed it legally sound.

Passes Unanimously

Moved by Marando, **seconded** by Hackett that the following statement be adopted:

Whereas Mac CSSA publicly confirmed, in their February 13th, 2019 statement, that they informed the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Toronto of an event on campus critical of the government of the People's Republic of China, and declared their intention to further monitor related developments;

Whereas the Student Representative Assembly is concerned that such surveillance, intentionally or not, aids the government of the People's Republic of China in gathering information about political activity on campus;

Whereas the government of the People's Republic of China, [according to Human Rights Watch](#), has an extensive history of attempting to silence overseas activists, dissidents, and critics by surveilling them, threatening their family members in China, or abducting them from abroad; ¹

Whereas the Student Representative Assembly (SRA) believes that Mac CSSA's act of informing on political activity on campus to the People's Republic of China poses a significant risk that individuals on campus who criticize the government of the People's Republic of China may be exposed to the consequences as documented by Human Rights Watch;

Whereas the government of the People's Republic of China has been reported to currently be operating a network of [concentration camps in Xinjiang](#), where over a million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities have been incarcerated as part of a [cultural genocide](#) operation and subjected to extensive [human rights violations](#); ^{2,2,3}

Whereas the Student Representative Assembly believes that Mac CSSA's act of informing on political activity on campus to the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China poses a significant threat to the freedoms, safety, and security of students on campus, especially for Chinese and Uyghur students;

Whereas the Mac CSSA constitution submitted to the MSU Clubs Department states the President shall handle all day-to-day operations of the club & ensure the clubs adherence to MSU club policies;

Whereas Mac CSSA acted as a signatory of the February 13th statement and shared the statement publicly via Mac CSSA WeChat, under the direction of the Mac CSSA president;

Whereas clubs are accountable for the actions of executive officers of the club when acting and speaking on behalf of said club;

Whereas other signatories have stated in their June responses to SRA question that a Mac CSSA executive officer invited them to be signatories of the statement and their "former president finally agreed to authorize the signature";

Whereas information, testimony, and evidence were presented to SRA on September 10th and delegated on September 22nd, which pertained to actions and implications of Mac CSSA prior to September 1st;

Whereas information presented to the assembly led the SRA to reconsider their initial decision to ratify Mac CSSA due to information pertinent to the club at the time of ratification, which is within their rights as outlined in MSU Bylaws 3 & 3A;

Whereas section 5.1.3 of the MSU Clubs Operating Policy states that Class C offences "are actions, which endanger the safety or security of any person or property" and "will always result in a punitive sanction";

Whereas it is the responsibility of the Student Representative Assembly & the Speaker to interpret and uphold all MSU Operating Policies as per the MSU Constitution;

Whereas the SRA shall create, alter, or repeal MSU operating policies, within the restrictions of the constitution and bylaws of the MSU, to direct the administration of the organization and its component departments;

Whereas as determined by the Student Representative Assembly, as the policy making body of the MSU, the de-ratification and appeal process provided to Mac CSSA is in accordance with MSU Operating Policies and Bylaws;

Whereas Mac CSSA was de-ratified, having its ratification status revoked, which is different than disbandment;

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Whereas the Student Representative Assembly is committed to protecting student safety, countering direct and indirect pressures for students to self-censor;

Whereas Mac CSSA was provided an opportunity to provide full answer and defense through an appeal process;

Whereas all pertinent information used by the SRA to make the initial decision is publicly available online via the McMaster Students Union channels, of which Mac CSSA was made aware;

***Whereas** the appeal process determined by the SRA, allowing for a delegation to the floor, in-person question questions period, as well as written questions for clarification, has been exhausted;*

Be it resolved that:

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Moreover, the Student Representative Assembly opposes attempts by the government of the People's Republic of China and/or MAC CSSA to directly or indirectly interfere with political activity on campus and undermine academic freedom and reminds students that they do not need to join any organizations that they do not want to, nor should conversations on campus be reported to foreign diplomatic missions that could result in impacts to the freedoms, safety, and security to students and members of the McMaster community.

In Favour: 22 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0
Motion Passes

TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Sunday, November 17, 2019
5:00pm
Council Chambers, GH 111

CALL OF THE ROLL

Present	Aciri, Alam, Alkasef, Dawdy, De Fazio, Figueiredo, Hankins, Hassan, Herscovitch, Homs, Hu, Jangra, Johnston, Kampman, Lee, McDermott, Pagnello, Reddy, Sarhan, Singh, Sinnige, Williams, Zheng
Absent Excused:	Hackett, Marando
Absent	Au-Yeung, Enuiyin, Ganesalingan, Grewal, Kaur, Li, Mesic, Mohamed, Zhang
Late	
Others Present:	Emma Ferguson (Recording Secretary), Adeola Egbeyemi (MSU Member), Tevin Heath (Senator, Faculty of Science), Jess Anderson (AVP Finance) Emma Ferguson (Recording Secretary)
Chair	Maryanne Oketch

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Lee, **seconded** by Alam that the meeting be adjourned.

Passes by General Consent

Adjourned at 9:59pm