



November 4th, 2020
Time: 18:00-20:08
3040 Sherbrooke St. W
Montreal, QC H3Z 1A4

Minutes of the Fall 2020 General Assembly

hosted by the **Dawson Student Union** held on Wednesday, November 4th, 2020 at 18:00 by Zoom

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj (Chairperson)
Alexandra Cardona (Deputy Chairperson)
Noah Lemaire (Treasurer)
Leana Ramirez (Director of Internal Affairs)
Valeria Sygal (Director of External Affairs)

Amélie Chornet (Director Clubs and Services)
Nicole Vega Rivas (Director of Student Life)
Danahé Orduna Martínez (Director of
Mobilization & Communication)
Sarah Bensemana (Director of Sustainability)

THIRD PARTY MEMBERS:

Chair of General Assembly: Miara Solivo

Recording Secretary: Abril Meza Naranjo

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

- 108 attended
- Quorum: Yes
- Majority: 55

AGENDA

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA OF THE 2020 FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
3. STATEMENT FROM CHAIRPERSON
4. SPECIAL ORDERS
 - 4.1 Ratification of the Budget, presentation by the Treasurer
 - 4.2 Ratification of a Policy "Code of Standing Regulations of Dawson Student Union Clubs", presentation by the Director of Clubs and Services
5. NEW BUSINESS
 - 5.1 Vote on the Resolution "Position Against the Gazoduc/GNL Project"
6. ADJOURNMENT

1, ADOPTION OF AGENDA OF THE 2020 FALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

🕒 18:07-18:09 👤 [Miara Solivo](#)

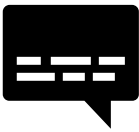
According to Bylaw VIII Section 8 The agenda of an assembly is set once notice is posted and may not be amended at the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FALL 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

🕒 18:10-18:18 👤 [Miara Solivo](#)

Minutes from the Fall 2019 General Assembly were reviewed, showcased in a PowerPoint presentation.

QUESTIONS:



Arwyn Regimbal: I was present in the 2019 General Assembly and the minutes (particularly for clubs) do not contain enough information which was discussed. Do the minutes just contain what was passed?

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj: Usually there is no in-depth information, some may contain but this secretary for Fall 2019 did not choose to do so, only showing what was passed.

No amendments. Kevin Contant-Holowatyj moves to adopt the 2019 Fall General Assembly minutes. Seconded.

Motion passed by majority vote.

3. STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

🕒 18:20-18:22 👤 [Kevin Contant-Holowatyj](#)

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj welcomes everybody for coming to the Fall 2020 General Assembly. He makes a note that the turnout is more than expected, maxing out the Zoom Participant limit. He states he is excited to hear input and questions from students present. Kevin presented briefly each executive team member, stating their name and position.

4. SPECIAL ORDERS

4.1 Ratification of the Budget

🕒 18:23-18:31 👤 [Noah Lemaire](#)

Noah Lemaire explained the format of the budget, having two columns to compare last year's budget with this year's proposed budget. He states that this will make it easier to understand how much was increased and reduced. In a few weeks will work on releasing a budget with more information.

Key points mentioned:

- **Deficit**
 - There is a \$10,000 deficit this year inherited from last year's DSU as they went over their budget

- **Revenue** for DSU comes from membership fees from students, not a definite projection as it depends on how many students are registered
- **Increase in budget:**
 - The Plant: They stated they have projects they wanted to do this year. After consulting them, a number was decided on
 - **2019**: \$11,000
 - **2020**: \$12,000
 - The Hive: Improve services, rebrand and expand to help more students
 - **2019**: \$9,000
 - **2020**: \$15,000
 - Club Improvements: Increased section greatly, planning to work with school to improve club spaces. Noah states that renovations are desperately needed.
 - **2019**: \$5,000
 - **2020**: \$25,000
 - Training for current DSU execs
 - **2019**: N/A
 - **2020**: \$2,000
 - Clubs Budget: Give clubs more money to have events and activities.
 - **2019**: \$500 was the previous amount allocated per clubs
 - **2020**: Increase to \$750 per semester
 - Total of \$1500 every academic year
- **Decrease in budget:**
 - Agendas: This year due to online school, DSU has decided not to invest in physical agendas. Not many students use physical agendas in retrospect and too expensive.
 - **2019**: 25,000
 - **2020**: \$0.00
 - Accounting Fees: Last year's DSU had many years of accounting to do but this year is not necessary
 - **2019**: \$70,000
 - **2020**: \$20,000
 - Mobilization: This budget was previously used for frosh week (t-shirts, pens, welcome bags, goodies, etc). DSU decided would serve students better if money was used on other things
 - **2019**: \$75,000
 - **2020**: \$10,000
- **New Section in budget:**
 - Student Insurance Plan: New project for DSU. Other CEGEPS and universities offer health and dental insurance to their students, they wanted Dawson to have these services offered.

- **2019:** N/A
 - **2020:** \$35,000
- **Donation for Etcetera club:** received from Pride Montreal due to Pride month cancelled because of COVID-19. They decided to donate money which will be reserved just for them.
 - **2019:** N/A
 - **2020:** \$1,000
- **General Administration**
 - Wages and Payroll
 - Remains the same
 - 2 current employees
 - **Gus:** Hive coordinator
 - **Patrick:** Clubs coordinator
- **Unallocated funds**
 - **2019:** set aside \$30,000 where they did not specify what they wanted to do with it
 - **2020:** DSU by law is not allowed to do that (set aside money or save money for next year). They must break even.

QUESTIONS:

🕒 18:32-19:05



Arwyn Regimbal: Will there be priorities regarding revamping the club spaces?

Noah Lemaire: Money is set aside for improvements but no assessment of what specific spaces must be worked on. Will be happening later. Need authorization from school to get green light. Will be considering every space and the spaces that need work right away will receive care.

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj: For all cases of renovations, intending to collaborate with school. Not entirety of renovation project will be financed by DSU as budget is limited and Dawson College has more resources. Steps required: signed protocol agreement (add clause for school to be required to fix any damages done to the spaces, including water damage). This is the time to do renovation projects. Essential work will be prioritized before aesthetic work.

Julie Jacques: Is there an increase in legal fees (\$10,000)?

Noah Lemaire: Increase in legal fees due to working on protocol agreement with school (contract between DSU and Dawson College). Make sure wording is clear and checks out. Training: Executives want to do things by the book therefore needing to consult lawyers. Contracts need to be verified.

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj: Main reason is to do a governance overhaul: mistakes in the bylaws, things that don't make sense, not practical. Necessary steps to be confirming with law and provincial statutes.

Maia Day: Why is there extra \$1000 going into Dawson Dining if students are all at home?

Noah Lemaire: Initially Dawson Dining was a project that would provide free vegan meals to students. Since no longer at campus, no longer happening. Director of Sustainability has some projects into making this service available for students at home. It won't be exactly as it was before but new version that adapts to this new reality.

Maia Day: Mobilization budget went from \$75,000 to \$10,000—what is DSU doing with that \$10,000?

Noah Lemaire: Initially was budget for merch, branding. This budget will be used for publicity, other ventures, some merch—less expensive alternatives.

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj: Budget will also be used to boost posts to reach more students on social media. Omnivox not the most effective, so DSU wants to add diversity in communication.

Nikita Shrestha: Since no longer doing in person activities anymore, why allocating \$35,000 for club activities, or clubs in general?

Noah Lemaire: Decided to keep that budget since clubs have online events and there is interest with clubs (have been in contact for a month now). Funds will be on need basis if requested.

Nikita Shrestha: Did pandemic affect the budget decision?

Noah Lemaire: Previous team set aside money for students in pandemic.

Nikita Shrestha: (Rephrase) Did the pandemic allow us to save money?

Noah Lemaire: By law as a non-profit corporation we are obliged to use the entirety of the budget.

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj: Yes, it did factor in when deciding to move around budget. For example: The Hive, Gus needs funds to improve services. The Plant budget was increased as currently undergoing project of digitizing all their past issues. Reduction: printing, office supplies needed less than before.

Benjamin Wexler: How will changes in student governance affect the changes in bylaws?

Question was deemed out of topic for budget discussion and he was encouraged to ask after GA.

Giulia Violo: Plans of retreat on the budget although there's a pandemic, why is there budget allocated?

Noah Lemaire: 1000\$ set aside for next team. Retreat is usually done for training purposes as DSU is obligated to train the next team of executives.

Hajar Lamri: What happens when clubs don't use their budget?

Noah Lemaire: \$750 for each semester. If unused, transfer to following semester. Next year, start with a new budget.

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj: Reason why budget is kept high despite pandemic is not to set a precedent for future teams to lower the budget for clubs permanently. Most clubs use all their budget and sometimes exceed it. If unused, money will be in surplus and reinvested for year after that. There is room in budget for 10 potential new clubs.

Amélie Chornet: New accreditation process for clubs so students can try out making a club without using budget directly.

Liam Gaither: Spending for general assemblies: publicity for Facebook ads and amazon gift cards.

Amazon does environmental damage and social damage to workers. Facebook purposely suppresses free speech in leftist circles. Why is DSU supporting these companies?

Noah Lemaire: Budget for GA is not just for Facebook and Amazon but zoom memberships.

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj: In the moment, we thought it was the most effective means to reach as many students and thought this \$20 gift card would be a good reward. We will take this into consideration and will try to get more sustainable companies.

Noah Lemaire: Due to pandemic, we had no other choice to reach out through social media.

Arwyn Regimbal: Where did 30k (unallocated) and the 10k deficit disappear to?

Noah Lemaire: No access to previous financial records at the moment so we have no idea how money was used last year.

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj: When we came in in September, \$30,000 was outstanding and had to be paid. Remaining on account was \$20,000 which was used for payroll to pay employees. Last expense was on merch. Line of credit on supplier which was waiting to get paid. This team will ensure budget will remain in the bounds of what is authorized. Budget revision might be done if need be.

Fab Pilon: Agrees with the other person regarding Amazon gift cards. I think it's possible to have both a good incentive that gets people to participate while uplifting local voices and companies.

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj: Will be taking note of all the comments and discuss with Director of Sustainability.

Noah Lemaire moves to adopt the Fall 2020-2021 Proposed Budget for DSU. Kevin Contant Holowatyj seconded.

Passed by majority vote.

4.2 Ratification of Policy "Code of Standing Regulations of Dawson Student Union Clubs"

🕒 19:07-19:15 🧑 Amélie Chornet

Amélie Chornet states this policy includes club status accreditation, club requirements (what is needed to be considered active) and club policies. She will point out changes made from past policies which were not quite clear, as well as additions.

Key points mentioned:

- Accreditation
 - **Previous accreditation**
 - Process to start new club
 - Submit club constitution
 - Petition of 250 supporting students
 - **Interim Status** has been added
 - Students can start clubs without responsibility of managing funds, club space
 - Accredited if initiative is unique (does not overlap with another club), feasible and sustainable
 - 50 supporting members instead of 250
 - If accredited, interim club status granted for one semester, after which club may apply for official status
 - **Official Status**
 - Must be interim status for one semester
 - Current clubs are considered official status
- Requirements
 - **Executive team**
 - Clubs may take another alternative form of government as long as three positions (chairperson, secretary, treasurer) are somehow represented in liaison with the DSU.
 - Shall be discussed and approved by DSU.
- Events
 - **Interim Clubs**
 - Must hold at least one event per semester where the club is active, open to general Dawson College student body
 - **Official Clubs**
 - Must hold three events per year
 - Can include collaboration with another club
- Consent Workshop
 - Three core officers of Club Executive Team must attend
 - If attended twice, not obligated to attend again
 - If executives fail to attend will be suspended for one semester.
- Club Policies
 - Budget was raised from \$500 to \$750 per semester
- Cheques
 - Club Executives may now provide void cheques to DSU treasurer to avoid picking up cheques at the DSU office

- Club Spaces
 - There was an error that entry codes can be given to club executives and members but no longer the case, only given to club executives
- Safer Space Policy
 - Revisited by team, not completely official but will be added to final document
 - Working with Director of Internal Affairs and Gus from The Hive
 - Zero tolerance for racism, sexism, classism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia (any discrimination on basis of gender, race/ethnicity, age, class, religion, sexual identity or ability)
 - Once Policy is official all DSU members, students and clubs of DSU must respect
- Advertising
 - In collaboration with CLL, also revisiting advertisement policies
 - For now, stays the same
- Sustainability
 - Will like to add to it for next GA
 - Policy regarding events: purchase of non-recyclable tableware will not be reimbursed
- Club Activity
 - Club status may be revoked if
 - Inactivity period lasts more than one semester
 - Violation of club policy
 - Failure of club to adhere to own constitution
 - Other stated reasons indicated by any member of Executive Committee
- General Provision
 - The Executive Committee can enforce and apply amendments to this policy in the interim before being presented at a General Assembly for Ratification so long as a vote of unanimous approval adopts these amendments to be put into application prior to ratification.

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj states club policy was revised due to previously being vague. This team wants to work on making sure wording is clear in other entities: student council, the hive, etc.



QUESTIONS:

🕒 19:17-19:30

Eve Omogbai: How many club events per semester or year?

Amélie Chornet: Due to starting this so late in semester and COVID-19: 3 events per year.

Julie Jacques: Can we get clarification for advertisement?

Amélie Chornet: Advertisement policy only concerns papers posted in the school. Written and established mainly by CLL, must follow what they are saying. This policy does not apply for online.

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj: Do not need to pre-approve posts going on social media. Must follow policies and not violate policies.

Abdel Kader Belco Kapi: Do club events have to be directed to general public or just club members?

Amélie Chornet: Club events must be open to all Dawson students. Events with members considered minor events.

Abdel Kader Belco Kapi: I'm new to clubs, how to advertise to all students?

Amélie Chornet: The way you decide to advertise for events is up to you. The DSU can help with social media outreach, sharing post on our stories to make event known for students.

Ekaterini Damoulianos had a question but decided to wait after GA is over to ask it.

John Nathaniel Gertler: When do we get the change to change what is written on here?

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj: This GA is specifically for ratifying the budget and policy of ammendments. The GA where each director presents what they did for the year is in the Winter.

Mohamed Ali El Sayed: Can we do events during the winter break?

Amélie Chornet: Yes, policy says three events open per year (academic), including breaks.

Arwyn Regimbal: All clubs have a communal interest. If Green Earth has a green event, most members attending will be Green Earth members.

Amélie Chornet: If advertised to whole student body, event is counted. Who shows up is out of our control, as long as the effort was made to reach everybody.

Beverly A.: Some clubs made money, where does it go? I'm part of Legacy and made money outside our budget. Do you guys still have that?

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj: Once we get our financial statements, we can investigate it. If you make money, we will create another budget category with your specific revenue and used for your specific expenses. We can set up a meeting to investigate this matter further.

Beverly A.: Do we need to have a retreat?

Amélie Chornet: Past committees held retreat with clubs but due to pandemic, we will not have that.

Arwyn Regimbal motions to open debate. Maia Day seconded.



DEBATE

🕒 19:31-19:42

Arwyn Regimbal is representing the Etcetera club, queer student association, states to have a few concerns with this policy:

- Right of Self Determination will be infringed upon by this policy
- Enumerate students
 - Queer community is not comfortable with registry of members. Will like to keep it so they don't have to enumerate members
 - Have had unreasonable past executive committees
 - where will it lead to in the future?
- Concerns on final clause that allows DSU to change policy

Amélie Chornet responded:

- Enumeration of members: when students start clubs and must highlight potential members, that is what they were implying by presenting a list.
 - Will keep it under consideration
- Self-Determination: We can look at it for future GA and loosen up points if need be.

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj responded:

- Policy of self-determination is a binding policy to the Union. Any policy, amendment to bylaws is subject to this written policy. Would not be possible for any DSU executive to remove certain rights.
- Final clause: Allows for DSU to amend the policy and implement in interim while waiting for ratification. Safeguard any changes needed for interim since ratification is only available twice a year.

Beverly A. had a few questions, added discussion to above mentioned question period.

Noah Lemaire motions to adopt ratification of Policy "Code of Standing Regulations of Dawson Student Union Clubs". Julie Jacques seconded.

The motion was adopted by majority.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Vote on the Resolution "Position Against the Gazoduc/GNL Project"

🕒 19:51-19:58 👤 Green Earth Club

Presentation for Green Earth club was shown in video format. Main point: the Dawson Student Union positions itself against GNL Quebec, its Gazoduc company and its Energie Sagenay project.

Maia Day motioned to start question period. Seconded by Alix Gravel.



QUESTIONS:

🕒 20:00-20:02

Fab Pilon: Passing this: what does it lead to? What are the next steps?

John Nathaniel Gertler: Ultimately what this does is send a clear statement that no social acceptability for this project. More students if Dawson joins against this project. Next: mobilization issues involved with this (protests, etc)

Arwyn Regimbal: Not a question just wanted to state Etcetera club and I support this.

No amendments made.

Kevin Contant-Holowatyj motions to open debate period. Noah Lemaire seconded.

DEBATE

🕒 20:03-20:06



Kevin Contant-Holowatyj states on behalf of the executive committee of DSU they are 100% behind this motion. He wants to express support for adoption of this resolution. Climate action is one of the #1 issues as young students who are going to join the job market. Invite all students at this assembly to also support.

Arwin Regimbal states that we should be doing better as a college and questions

past DSU for spending so much money on agendas.

Noah Lemaire agrees with Arwin, stating that although this resolution is mainly on Quebec agenda, in the future solutions can be presented to the DSU for more sustainability efforts. Although this year DSU is not doing agendas, perhaps this could be placed in writing.

Maia Day motioned to vote for Resolution "Position Against the Gazoduc/GNL Project". Seconded by Mavryk Martin.

Motion was passed unanimously.

6. ADJOURNMENT

🕒 20:08 👤 [Miara Solivo](#)

Fall 2020 General Assembly adjourned at 8:08 pm.