

Faculty Club Council

Annual General Meeting

June 12, 2019 2:00 PM Council Room

Present: Ian Butler, President; Stefano Algieri, Vice-President; Edith Zorychta, Financial Matters; Philip Smith, Acting Secretary; Nicolas Zrihen, General Manager; Adrian Chu, Assistant General Manager; Alvin Shrier; Axel van den Berg; Brendan Gillon; Heidi Emami; David Harpp; Olivia Jensen; Peter McNally

Adoption of Agenda

McNally, 2nd Smith Carried

Adoption of Minutes 2018 AGM

Zorychta, 2nd Gillon Carried

Business Arising

Van den Berg asked Butler about the FC decision concerning the joint membership with MAUT. Butler replied that he will address this in his Report.

President's Report (Ian S. Butler)

This has been another busy year at the Faculty Club. I will just highlight the main points. Other members on Council will provide details as appropriate.

- The special events over the year were typically well attended. We had Opera Night with dinner, thanks to Vice-President, Stefano Algieri; a Robbie Burns Night; the Annual Christmas Lunch and Children's Brunch; a Mother's Day Brunch; and a moderately successful Theatre Night with Gabriel Soskin. There were also successful national food festivals, such as the Lobster Festival. In addition, there were events held throughout the year in conjunction with MAUT. Similar jointly sponsored events will be planned for the 2019-20 academic year.
- The Tuesday afternoon Bridge Club continues thanks to the efforts of Dorothy Thomas Edding.
- The Trivia Nights, hosted by our Past President, David Harpp, continue to be a resounding success. This year, about \$4,000 was raised for Centraide. Over the past 9 years, about \$30,000 has been generated for this worthy cause. A 10th Trivia season is being planned (an important milestone).
- The McTavish Lounge in the basement continues to be used.

- The Billiard Room is well utilized and provides welcome additional revenue, as well as being a wonderful facility for seminars, workshops, and meetings.

The total membership of the Faculty Club is 987 members for a total revenue of \$84,000. There are 826 members paying the annual \$60 fee, 1 member paying \$120 per year, 1 member paying \$240 per year, 30 members paying \$250 per year, 34 non-faculty members (e.g. McGill administrators), paying \$254 per year, and 39 other members (i.e. business professionals or alumni members), paying \$300 per year.

73 members of the University Club joined the FC on a 50% pro-rated rate of \$150. The Women's Club of the University Club were offered the same deal but declined because they considered it to be too expensive. In June 2020, the University Club will resume independent operations at a new location, but it is expected that several of the aforementioned 73 University Club members will likely remain with the FC.

Harpp makes a motion that *the FC continue the existing relationship with the University Club members for the period of June 2019-June 2020.*

2nd Zorychta Carried

Financial Report (Edith Zorychta)

Zorychta says that the FC has an exceptional General Manager and other managers. The Club had a really good year. Zorychta was very pleased to see that the university administration is using the FC more and more. Appropriately, most of the revenue comes from internal use (75% of income from Administration and Faculties, >\$1,000,000). The Chair of the McGill Board of Governors brings his colleagues to lunch at the Club, and everyone enjoys the food and service. Harpp found over 30 reports about the FC on Google, where the average score was 4.3. This is worth tracking in the future.

Zorychta reminded members that it is very important for us to maintain Tadjia Hall for our colleagues at Macdonald Campus, and this past year we were able to provide them \$15,000 to repair their floors, for which they were very grateful.

For the past 15 years, we have had a policy regarding annual restoration work. We currently have a 5-Year Plan: 3 years to replace all the windows (1 year per floor); 1 year for the roof; and 1 year for the masonry on the back of the building. The windows need to be replaced with architecturally appropriate windows, which Pella is able to do, and these new windows will be able to be opened for washing.

Chef Leo has completed his probation and been given a 2-year contract.

Everything is going well on the HR front. Relations with unions are good. Just a reminder that salary increases are per the collective agreement and not controlled by the FC. It should be noted that casual employees receive a lower rate for benefits.

Harpp makes a motion that *the FC continue to offer a joint MAUT/FC membership for new members of MAUT.*

2nd Van den Berg Carried

General Manager's Report

The GM states that the FC had an excellent year and is in good financial health.

The GM listed several of the renovations and improvements that have taken place: replacing gas pipes; painting the columns in the Dining Room; new steamer and ventilation system in the kitchen; new wine cellar in the Dining Room; new screen in the Ballroom.

The GM explained how the FC receives its revenue. The GM restated that catering is essential to the successful operation of the FC.

For events at the FC during the year, please refer to President's report.

The GM congratulates Assistant Manager Adrien Chu for his outstanding contributions, and notes that he may need some part-time help during certain times of the year.

The GM says that about 50% of the heating system has been changed. Most of the heating will be through vents, but the window radiators will be replaced by electric heating, then they will be capped and left in place for appearance purposes.

Asbestos was found in the walls and will be removed by the end of June 2019.

A new management system will be in full operation later in 2019.

Renovation projects planned for the summer include: asbestos removal in the Heritage Room and new heating system installed; complete renovation of the Coat Check Room to make it look like the main lounge; ceiling work, including repairing cracks; change the carpet in the Dining Room (lighter, with a pattern); stained glass in Dining Room will be removed, repaired, cleaned, then reinstalled; deep clean of the kitchen.

Billiard Room now generates a significant portion of revenue.

Revenue increased by 21%, most of which was due to FOAPAL paying clients. University, especially the Senior Administration, has a much better view of the FC, and it has taken almost 20 years to overcome a bad reputation, but we have finally managed to turn things around.

The GM states that the University is responsible for the shell of our building. The GM met with Vice-Principal (Administration & Finance) Beauchamp, who has expressed an interest in the FC 50-50 cost-sharing proposal for the maintenance of our building. Discussed ways of paying our share of these building maintenance costs.

The FC Endowment fund has been slowly increasing; if we get to two times the annual budget, we would be able to use interest to help with renovations or other necessities.

Zorychta responded to a question concerning who manages the FC endowment. She responded that it is done by the same people who manage the McGill endowments.

Zorychta reminded Council that during the 2008-09 crisis, the FC agreed to the university withholding part of the funding from the formula for the MAUT salary diversion (recently renamed a supplement) in order to support the University. This arrangement continues annually.

Zorychta also notified Council that no amounts are expected to be added to the endowment during the 5-year Renovation plan as all resources will be needed for the work being done.

In answer to a question concerning the use of the FC by the University Club members, the GM responded that University Club members held 15-18 events at the FC this past year.

The GM remarked that although the Dining Room does \$30,000/month, it is still operating at a loss and is subsidized by catering revenues. The GM believes strongly in giving back to the FC members by providing discounts, e.g. 2 for 1 every day, as a service to members.

The FC changed the small bar menu and the Trivia Night menu (Harpp stated that this latter was very good).

Retiring Council Members (2018-19):

Butler states that Valerie Kinslow, Susan Gaskin, Alvin Shrier, and Past President David Harpp will be retiring from Council, and thanked them all for their service.

Other Business

Executive and Council for 2019-20: President Ian Butler will become Past President, Vice-President Stefano Algieri will become President, Council member Brendan Gillon has been elected Vice-President by acclamation. With regard to new Council members, Algieri is in the midst of recruiting promising new members. In this regard, Algieri queried if newly joined members are eligible to serve on Council. The response was: Yes. A question was posed about non-members being able to use the McGill debit card at the FC. The response was: No.

A question was posed about how many members use the reciprocal agreements during the summer closure. Zorychta and Zrihen replied that not many members do. McNally remarked that he has had good experiences, although they can be expensive. Members were reminded that in order to use the reciprocal agreement, you will need Natasha to provide you with a Letter of Introduction.

McNally makes a motion *to congratulate Ian Butler for his years as President*

2nd Shrier Carried

Regarding the timing for the Fall Council meeting, it was pointed out that it cannot be scheduled for October 29, 2019, due to the Fall Convocation.

Butler thanked Smith for acting as Secretary for this meeting.

Adjournment of Meeting

Zorychta, 2nd Algeri Carried.

The Faculty Club Annual General Meeting June 12, 2019 concluded at 3:09 PM