



Submitted for: September 14, 2017

## **Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Standing Rules for the 2017-2018 Legislative Council**

**WHEREAS**, Robert's Rules of Order provide a general framework for formal, efficient group meetings by balancing the rights of members while facilitating democratic debate and decision-making;

**WHEREAS**, standing rules are mechanisms by which Robert's Rules can be fine-tuned for any given group, such as the SSMU Legislative Council;

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the Legislative Council adopts the following Standing Rules (attached as Appendix 1) to maximize the efficiency of council meetings.

**Moved By:**

Muna Tojiboeva, President of SSMU ([president@ssmu.ca](mailto:president@ssmu.ca))

Andre Lametti, Medicine Representative ([ssmurep.mss@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:ssmurep.mss@mail.mcgill.ca))

Tre Mansdoerfer, Senate Representative ([senator@mcgilleus.ca](mailto:senator@mcgilleus.ca))

APPROVED



## **Appendix 1: Standing Rules for the 2017-2018 Legislative Council**

### 1. SCOPE

- 1.1. The following rules can be suspended by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote at anytime.

### 2. DECORUM

- 2.1. All members of the Legislative Council must carry themselves with decorum to demonstrate the respect they hold for their office.
- 2.2. All members must strive for punctuality.
  - 2.2.1. Consistent tardiness will merit warning, and may or may not result in suspension as per the Parliamentarian and Speaker's discretion.
- 2.3. Two (2) unexcused absences, even if they are not consecutive, will result in immediate suspension.
- 2.4. Excused absences will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis:
  - 2.4.1. An absence will be excused due to, but not limited to:
    - 2.4.1.1. Physical illness, mental health issues, family/friend emergency, and an assessment that conflicts with the time of council meetings.
    - 2.4.1.2. If an absent councillor arranges a proxy to take their place, the said absence will be excused.
    - 2.4.1.3. Absences must be communicated to the Speaker or Parliamentarian at least 24 hours before a scheduled Council meeting.
  - 2.4.2. Absences will be evaluated by the Accountability Committee, which will decide whether an absence is excused or not.
- 2.5. All members must refrain from speaking when they do not have the floor.
- 2.6. When Guest Speakers are present, all laptops, excluding those of the dais, must be closed in respect to the Guest Speaker

### REPORTS

- 2.7. All Councillors, Executives, and Committees must submit a report detailing their activities related to the SSMU/their respective constituency since the last Monday in which the previous report was submitted.
- 2.8. All reports must be submitted no later than midnight (11:59PM) of the Sunday immediately preceding Council, with the exceptions of the Funding Committee and Interest Group Committee



- 2.9. Late reports will count as having been submitted, but consistent tardiness may result in suspension, as per the Speaker's discretion.
- 2.10. Failure to submit three (3) reports will result in suspension.

### 3. SPEAKING

- 3.1. To speak, members must raise their placards to alert the Speaker.
- 3.2. When rising with an interrupting point or motion (as defined by Robert's Rules), members must raise their placards and hold them high.
- 3.3. When granted speaking rights, members must stand, address the Speaker, and use a microphone.
- 3.4. The following time limits for speaking will be enforced by the Speaker. A simple majority can extend all time limits:
  - 3.4.1. A default speaking time of one (1) minute.
  - 3.4.2. A default speaking time for Councillor (including Executive) reports of three (3) minutes.
  - 3.4.3. A default speaking time for Committee reports of five (5) minutes.
  - 3.4.4. The default speaking times for Councillor, Executive and Committee reports will be immediately followed by a question period of five (5) minutes.

### 4. MAIN MOTIONS

- 4.1. Main motions require a minimum of three (3) movers to be presented before council, with no more than half (1/2) hailing from the SSMU Executive Committee and no more than 2/3 from each constituency. Main motions do not require a seconder.
  - 4.1.1. This rule shall not apply for motions that must be moved only by the Executives.
- 4.2. Members must submit main motions to the Parliamentarian by 12:00 AM on the Thursday preceding Council.
- 4.3. The recommendations of the Steering Committee will be sent to the movers within 24 hours of the above deadline. Movers will then have until Sunday at midnight (11:59PM) to submit the final version of the motion to the Parliamentarian.
  - 4.3.1. At this point, the motions can no longer be amended before Council.
- 4.4. During Council, after the movers have had the opportunity to motivate their motion, a question period of a maximum of five (5) minutes shall precede debate.



## 5. AMENDMENTS

- 5.1. All amendments must be submitted to the Parliamentarian in writing.
- 5.2. Friendly amendments will be acknowledged only if all movers unanimously accept them. They will be included without a vote.
  - 5.2.1. A friendly amendment can only be made before the motion's question period begins, as that is when the motion is considered moved and becomes property of the floor.
  - 5.2.2. Friendly amendments may be made after the motion has been moved if no member objects.
- 5.3. Unfriendly amendments require a simple majority for inclusion.

## 6. VOTING

- 6.1. For all main motions and subsidiary motions of substance, an electronic vote will be considered the default voting method. At their discretion, the Speaker will waive this requirement and inform Council when they are doing so.
  - 6.1.1. After entering voting procedure, Councillors have a right to motion for any other voting method (as per Robert's Rules). This will follow debate and a majority vote.

## 7. SUSPENSION

- 7.1. All suspensions will be carried as according to the procedures outlined in Article 3 in the Internal Regulations of the Presidential Portfolio-04 (page 20).