



Motion Regarding a Commitment to Councillor Accountability

Whereas the term "active representation" refers to the act of proactively seeking out the opinions, ideas, and concerns of constituents, as opposed to only passively waiting for students to voice opinions,

Whereas active representation will be of use in increasing engagement of students with the SSMU and with campus politics,

Whereas councillors have a duty to actively represent their constituents, and not rely only on their own opinions when determining their stances at council,

Whereas a set of guidelines of active representation would be useful in the training of new councillors, and in allowing constituents to hold their councillors accountable,

Whereas the current climate emphasizes councillor accountability to SSMU and Council, but does not emphasize councillor accountability to constituents,

Whereas it is clear that, in some cases (such as decisions made in confidential session), Councillors will not be able to engage in effective active representation,

Resolved that the SSMU Legislative Council and all councillors current and future commit themselves to following, to the best of their abilities, these guidelines on active representation:

- a. Councillors should actively seek out the opinions, questions, concerns, and ideas of constituents via the following means:
 - Online surveys of constituent opinions on current SSMU affairs
 - The provision of information on current SSMU affairs via social media and listserv
 - Calls for feedback, opinion, and comments via social media and listserv
 - The creation of a social media profile for each councillor
 - Actively seeking out the opinions of constituents at faculty events and on person-to-person basis
 - Active consultation, when possible, with their faculty associations
 - The holding of regular office hours

- b. Councillors should present summaries of the consultations efforts outlined in point (a) to Council and should include these summaries in their Councillor reports,



Students' Society of McGill University
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Office of the Speaker
Bureau de Président du Conseil

c. Councillors should use the results of their consultations to help them make decisions on what stances to take at Council- which will transform their efforts at consultation into acts of active representation,

d. Councillors and Executives who are thinking of bringing a motion to the next Council should, when appropriate, release information about their motion as early as possible to allow their fellow councillors to carry out consultations,

Resolved that, in order to facilitate the above efforts, the Steering Committee and the Executive will make an effort to release motions for approval, notice of motions, and reports as early as possible in the week leading up to Council,

Resolved that, in order to remain accountable, each Councillor should, at the end of the Fall and Winter semesters of their mandates, release a public report to their constituents detailing their efforts at active representation and consultation; Councillors from the same constituency may present a combined report, as long as their individual efforts are highlighted;

Resolved that Council shall review this motion in Fall 2014 with a view to formalizing the contents herein and adding them to appropriate bylaws or to the constitution,

Respectfully moved by:
David Benrimoh
Courtney Ayukawa
Kareem Ibrahim
Zak Rosentveig