



**Motion Regarding a Sustainability Plebiscite Question for the Winter 2015  
Referendum**

Whereas, sustainability at the SSMU is codified in the SSMU Sustainability Policy;

Whereas, the SSMU Legislative Council created the Ad-Hoc Committee for Sustainability in November 2013;

Whereas, the aforementioned committee was created again in September 2014, and is currently charged with consulting students and making an actionable recommendation on the future institutionalization of SSMU sustainability to Council by the end of the 2014-2015 academic year;

Whereas, the committee has surveyed over four-hundred students on campus;

Whereas, 80% of students responded that the SSMU should be prioritizing sustainability highly or very highly;

Whereas, 73% of students responded that the SSMU should budget for sustainability staff;

Whereas, the Brundtland report defines sustainable development as the “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” and is often seen to have 3 pillars: social, economic, and environment;

Whereas, sustainability work is currently split between three portfolios, with issues of social sustainability in the VP University Affairs portfolio, issues of environmental sustainability in the President's portfolio, and issues of financial sustainability in the VP Finance and Operations portfolio;

Whereas, the SSMU currently has the following student staff positions: 2 Environment Commissioners, 1 Green Building Coordinator, 1 Green Events Coordinator, 1 Financial Ethics Research Coordinator, 2 Equity Commissioners;

Whereas, the aforementioned student staff and their projects are currently supervised by different executives, either the VP University Affairs, the VP Finance and Operations, or the President;

Whereas, a new position such as a VP Sustainability or a full time Sustainability Coordinator would supervise all of the sustainability student staff (listed above) and bring sustainability projects together under one portfolio;



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Whereas, a VP Sustainability would be elected on an annual basis and best be able to represent student sustainability interests to the McGill administration, and facilitate networking for sustainability initiatives and interested students;

Whereas, a full time Sustainability Coordinator would a permanent staff member and best support historical and institutional knowledge, goal setting and long term planning;  
Whereas, Article 11.1 of By Law Book I allows a list of no more than ten (10) single-part questions on which students will be asked to voice their opinion at the bottom of the election ballot;

Be it resolved, that in order to pass this referendum question, the pertaining By-laws be temporarily suspended;

Be it resolved, that the following plebiscite question and background paragraphs be added on the Winter 2015 referendum ballot.

The SSMU Committee for Sustainability is consulting students and making an actionable recommendation regarding restructuring sustainability resources at SSMU! The committee has surveyed over 400 students on campus; 80% of students responded that SSMU should be prioritizing sustainability highly or very highly, and 73% of students responded that SSMU should budget for Sustainability staff. The full report of responses may be found on the March 12 documents here: <http://goo.gl/7Sev2x>

Sustainability is often seen to have 3 pillars: social, economic, and environment. SSMU sustainability work is currently split between three portfolios, with student staff and sustainability projects separated between different executives. A new position (such as these two below) would supervise all of the sustainability student staff and bring projects together under one portfolio.

If you have questions or comments regarding this sustainability restructuring, please email [susresearchcom@ssmu.mcgill.ca](mailto:susresearchcom@ssmu.mcgill.ca)!

With that in mind, please rank the following options in terms of how you want SSMU to restructure sustainability work and services:

- VP Sustainability (would be elected on an annual basis; best be able to represent student sustainability interests to the McGill administration, and facilitate networking for sustainability initiatives and interested students)
- Sustainability Coordinator (would be a full time, permanent staff member and best support historical / institutional knowledge, and goal setting / long term planning)



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- Status quo (social, environmental, and financial sustainability initiatives and staff as a shared responsibility in multiple executive portfolios)
- Abstain from participating in plebiscite

Moved by,  
Courtney Ayukawa, President  
Amina Moustaqim-Barrette, VP External  
Daniel Chaim, VP Internal

APPROVED