



CONSTITUTION OF DEMOCRATS ABROAD @ MCGILL

1 Article I: Name

- 1.1 Democrats Abroad @ McGill, also referred to hereinafter as the Club.

2 Article II: Objectives

- 2.1 The Club's mandate shall be to:

- Act as a liaison between McGill students and Democrats Abroad (specifically, the Montreal chapter).
- Provide opportunities for voter registration assistance for the large American community (including students, faculty and staff) at McGill (Le. registration drives) to help navigate the absentee ballot process.
- Organize social gatherings where students can view major political broadcasts, such as debates, National Conventions, State of the Union addresses, etc.
- Provide a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for political discussion and debate pertaining to the Democratic Party's interests.
- Organize opportunities for student activism, including telephone banking, fundraising for the Democratic Party, and trips to campaign and encourage enfranchisement of voters in the United States.
- Welcome students, regardless of their country of citizenship, to participate and learn about U.S. politics and the Democratic Party.

2.2 Code of Conduct

- 2.2.1 The Club shall carry forth its mandate from an anti-oppressive and equitable standpoint AND equal respect shall be given to all members, including those of disadvantaged backgrounds, regardless of but not limited to gender, age, race, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexuality or sexual orientation, mental or physical abilities, language, or social class.

- 2.2.1.1 No member shall make personal profit from the club

- 2.2.2 Any executive member who fails to fulfill their responsibilities shall be subject to the expulsion procedure outlined in this constitution

2.3 Student Group Civility

- 2.3.1 The club will maintain cordial and respectful relations with all other clubs, services and independent student groups

- 2.3.2 The club will not use SSMU resources and/or their club status to prevent other clubs, services or independent student groups from fulfilling their mandate, including but not limited to their acquisition of resources and pursuit of activities.

- 2.3.3 If problems arise between groups, a member of the executive committee and/or collective of the club shall be responsible for contacting the SSMU Vice President of Clubs and Services and attempt to remedy the problem in a collegial fashion.

2.4 Environment

- 2.4.1 The club shall make attempts to regularly monitor the environmental impact of all its events and operations



- 2.4.1.1 Clubs must attempt to utilize the services and resources available at SSMU in order to maximize capacities for equitable decision-making and environmental stewardship. These include but are not limited to the use of the plate club, green events guide, applications for the SSMU Green fund, assistance of the SSMU environment commissioners, environment committee and green events coordinators
- 2.4.2 The club must attempt to find sustainable alternatives to the non-recyclable #6 plastic, effective waste management, providing vegan and vegetarian options, purchasing clothing which is ethically sourced and environmentally-friendly, purchasing local and sustainable alcohol, fair trade coffee and tea, and local and/or organic foods.

3 Article III: Membership

- 3.1 Membership for a club under the Students' Society of McGill University is open to all SSMU and PGSS members, including those of disadvantaged backgrounds, regardless of but not limited to gender, age, race, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexuality or sexual orientation, mental or physical abilities, language, or social class.
- 3.2 Only Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) and Post Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) members are eligible to be elected as officers and to hold voting privileges.
- 3.3 Associated non-voting membership is open to all others.

4 Article IV: Executive Committee

- 4.1 The Executive Committee (EC) shall administer the Club and oversee its events.
- 4.2 The EC is composed of the following five portfolios:
 - 1. President
 - 2. Vice President Internal
 - 3. Vice President Finance
 - 4. Vice President Communications
 - 5. Vice President Events
- 4.3 The EC shall meet as frequently as it deems fit.
- 4.4 At least three of the five EC members must be present at an EC meeting in order for quorum to be met and for the meeting to proceed.
- 4.5 Each member of the EC shall be responsible for preparing a transitional guide for his/her successor.

5 Article V: Portfolios

- 5.1 The President shall:
 - 5.1.1 Be the chief executive officer, chief representative, and chief spokesperson of the Club.
 - 5.1.2 Oversee all aspects of the club.
 - 5.1.3 Act as a representative of the Club to the community within and outside of the University.
 - 5.1.4 Be the main point of contact between the SSMU VP Clubs and Services and the club
 - 5.1.5 Be responsible for promoting the image of the club and developing health relations with student and community organizations within and outside McGill University, and specifically, the Montreal chapter of Democrats Abroad.
 - 5.1.6 Chair all EC meetings.
 - 5.1.7 May cast the deciding vote in the event of a EC deadlock
 - 5.1.8 Fulfills the tasks assigned by the EC.



- 5.2 The Vice President Internal shall:
- 5.2.1 Be responsible for communication within the EC and with the Students' Society of McGill University.
 - 5.2.2 Ensure the smooth running of the Club as a whole through facilitation of, and mediation with, the various EC portfolios with a vision that is consistent with the Club mandate.
 - 5.2.3 Maintain the membership list of the club.
 - 5.2.4 Co-Sign all financial transactions with the Treasurer.
 - 5.2.5 Co-Sign all minutes with the Secretary.
 - 5.2.6 Oversee and coordinate the programming activities and events of the club
 - 5.2.7 Ensure that the Club is abiding by the Constitution, By-laws and Policies of the Students' Society of McGill University
 - 5.2.9 Fulfills the tasks assigned by the EC.
- 5.3 The Vice President Finance shall:
- 5.3.1 Oversee and coordinate funding for the programming activities and events of the club
 - 5.3.2 Be responsible for the collection of membership fees.
 - 5.3.3 Co-sign all financial transactions with the President.
 - 5.3.4 Ensure the funding and financial stability of the club.
 - 5.3.5 Keep track of all financial transactions and receipts in order to prepare the biyearly audits for the SSMU
 - 5.3.6 Fulfill the tasks assigned by the EC.
- 5.4. The Vice President Communications shall:
- 5.4.1 Take minutes at EC and general meetings, and ensure proper distribution of all minutes.
 - 5.4.2 Maintain the membership list.
 - 5.4.3 Send out listservs when deemed necessary by any member of the EC.
 - 5.4.4 Co-sign all minutes with the Vice President Internal.
 - 5.4.5 Fulfill the tasks assigned by the EC.
- 5.5 The Vice President Events shall:
- 5.5.1 Be responsible for overseeing the planning and promotion of events.
 - 5.5.2 Work with the VP Finance to arrange for the funding of events.
 - 5.5.3 Be responsible for booking and arranging meeting rooms, organizing and obtaining refreshments, and drafting agendas for general meetings.
 - 5.5.4 Fulfill the tasks assigned by the EC.
- 6 Article VI: Fees**
- 6.1 The Club's membership fee shall be \$0.00 dollars.
- 7 Article VII: Finances**
- 7.1 The Executive Committee shall examine the financial records, and prepare an audit, complete with records of all transactions and receipts, to be submitted to the SSMU at the end of each semester.
- 7.2 All club bank accounts must be kept at Scotiabank as subsections of the SSMU account
- 7.2.1 Each account must have a minimum of two and maximum of three signing officers



7.2.2 In order to receive funding of any kind from the SSMU, the club must have a Scotiabank account

8 Article VIII: Meetings

8.1 There shall be a General Meeting held in March for the purpose of electing new members to the EC.

8.2 Regular Executive and General Meetings shall be held throughout the fall and winter terms.

8.3 Special Meetings shall be called at any time deemed necessary by the EC.

9 Article IX: Electoral Procedures

9.1 The Vice-President (Clubs & Services) of SSMU or his/her representative shall be the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) with final authority over electoral procedures and validity of results.

9.2 The general membership must be notified of the date of the general meeting 2 weeks in advance to the date of the General Meeting called for elections purposes.

9.3 Elections are to be held before March 31 during the previously mentioned General Meeting.

9.4 The Executive Committee may designate Deputy Electoral Officers (DEOs) to assist the running of elections in consultation with the CEO.

9.5 Elections are to be conducted by secret ballot in person.

9.6 Ballots must be kept in a secure place for 5 weeks after the date of voting .

9.7 The Vice-President (Clubs and Services) should be notified immediately in the event of contested electoral results.

10 Article X: Affiliations

10.1 The Club shall be affiliated with Democrats Abroad, Montreal Chapter.

11 Article XI: Constitutional Amendment Procedure

11.1 Any member of the club may propose an amendment to the Constitution.

11.2 In order to amend the constitution a two-thirds majority vote at a General Meeting must be in favor of the proposed amendment

11.3 All amendments shall be submitted to the Interest Group Coordinator, will be reviewed by the Interest Group Committee and ratified by the SSMU council before they take effect.

12 Article XII: Bylaws and Policies

12.1 The club shall create and maintain bylaws that cover the operations of the club which are not specified in the Constitution.

12.2 The club's bylaws shall not contravene the Constitution.

12.3 The club by laws must be available to any member of the SSMU when and if requested.

13 Article XIII: SSMU Constitution, By-Laws and Policies

13.1 In case of any inconsistencies between the Club Constitution and the SSMU Constitution and By-Laws, the SSMU Constitution By-Laws and Policies shall take effect.

13.2 If there are any areas not covered in this Constitution, the SSMU Constitution, By-Laws and Policies shall take effect.