



CONSTITUTION OF FREETHOUGHT ASSOCIATION

Ratified by SSMU Council on: November 20, 2014

1 Article I: Name

1.1 Freethought Association, also referred to hereinafter as the Club.

2 Article II: Mandate

2.1 The Club's mandate shall be to:

- Promote rational thinking and enhance the presence of freethought, skepticism, science, and secular humanism on campus.
- Provide information to students on campus about freethinking and related topics
- Be a meeting point for atheists, agnostics, and skeptics on campus
- Create a forum to address current local and/or global issues from the perspective of a freethinker, that is through the use of logical principles, scientific inquiry and empiricism.

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 but are not limited 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 six portfolios:
1. President
 2. Vice President
 3. Vice President External
 4. Vice President Internal (Events)
 5. Vice President Finance
 6. Vice President Communications
- 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.

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 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.
 - 5.1.4 Chair all EC meetings
 - 5.1.5 May cast the deciding vote in the event of an EC deadlock
 - 5.1.6 Co-sign all financial transactions with the VP Finance
- 5.2. The Vice President shall:
- 5.2.1 Act as the Chair at all meetings where the President is unable to attend
 - 5.2.2 Hold a decisive vote on yearly programming
 - 5.2.3 Ensure that the club mandate is fulfilled by assisting the President in the daily affairs of the club.



- 5.3 The Vice President External shall:
- 5.3.1 Act as the representative of the club to the community outside of the University.
 - 5.3.2 Be responsible for developing relations with organizations promoting freethought, skepticism, science, and secular humanism, particularly in the Montreal area.
 - 5.3.3 Act as the representative of the Club within the university communication.
 - 5.3.4 Be responsible for communication within the EC, with other students organizations at McGill University, and with the Students' Society of McGill University.
- 5.4 The Vice President Internal shall:
- 5.4.1 Maintain the membership list of the Club.
 - 5.4.2 Oversee and coordinate the programming of activities and events of the Club.
 - 5.4.3 Be partially responsible for the publicity of events organized by the club.
- 5.5 The Vice President Finance shall:
- 5.5.1 Co-sign all financial transactions with the President.
 - 5.5.2 Ensure the funding and financial stability of the Club.
 - 5.5.3 Prepare all necessary budgets and financial statements.
 - 5.5.4 Assist the Vice President Communications as needed.
- 5.6 The Vice President Communications shall:
- 5.6.1 Organize all advertising campaigns needed for events and awareness campaigns, specifically the design of posters, distribution of posters and the maintenance of a list of Executive postering assignments.
 - 5.6.2 Monitor the success of advertising campaigns for future reference,
- 6 Article VI: Fees**
- 6.1 The club shall levy a membership fee of \$3 from all members if this fee is passed by a two-thirds majority of the EC in any given year.
- 7 Article VII: Finances**
- 7.1 The Executive Committee or Collective 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, including the President and the VP Finance.
 - 7.2.2 In order to receive funding of any kind from the SSMU, the club must have a Scotiabank account.
 - 7.2.3 The VP Finance shall petition the CFI, SSMU, and other relevant organizations for financial support as needed.



8 Article VIII: Meetings

8.1 General Meetings:

- 8.1.1 There shall be at least 2 General Meetings per semester.
- 8.1.2 General meeting may be called by the President or through a petition signed by 3 executive members or 10 voting members.
- 8.1.3 Notice of the General Meeting must be sent at least 7 days in advance.
- 8.1.4 The agenda for the General Meeting must be sent at least 3 days in advance.
- 8.1.5 Any member can submit subjects to be included in the agenda for a General Meeting.
- 8.1.6 Only matters stated on the agenda can be subject to vote at the General Meeting.
- 8.1.7 Quorum at a General Meeting is 5 voting members.
- 8.1.8 Decisions shall be taken by a majority of voting members.
- 8.1.9 There shall be a General Meeting held in March for the purpose of electing new members to the EC and providing a year in review financial report.

8.2. Regular Executive Meetings

- 8.2.1 There shall be at least 6 regular executive meetings per semester.
- 8.2.2 Regular Executive Meetings may be called by the President or through a petition signed by 3 of the executive members.
- 8.2.3 Notice of a Regular Executive Meeting must be sent at least 3 days in advance.
- 8.2.4 The agenda for a Regular Executive Meeting must be sent at least 1 day in advance.
- 8.2.5 Quorum at a Regular Executive Meeting is 3 executive members.
- 8.2.6 Decisions shall be taken by a majority of executive members.
- 8.2.7 The President shall cast a deciding vote in the case of a tie.

8.3 Special Meetings

- 8.3.1 Special meetings shall be called at time deemed necessary by the President.

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) shall be notified immediately in the event of contested electoral results

10 Article X: Affiliations

- 10.1 The Club shall be affiliated with the Centre for Inquiry.



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.