**Submitted For:** September 17, 2015 **Approved On:** September 17, 2015

# Office of the Speaker Bureau de Président du Conseil

# Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Standing Rules for the 2015-2016 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;

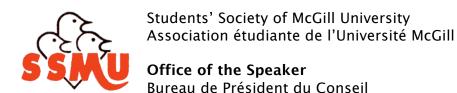
WHEREAS, standing rules are mechanisms by which Robert's Rules can be fine-tuned for any given group, such as the SSMU Legislative Council;

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:

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# Appendix 1: Standing Rules for the 2015-2016 Legislative Council

## 1. SCOPE

1. The following rules can be suspended by a 2/3 majority vote at any time.

### 2. DECORUM

- 1. All members of the Legislative Council must carry themselves with decorum to demonstrate the respect they hold for their office.
  - 1. All members must strive for punctuality. All absences and delays must be submitted to the Parliamentarian (parliamentarian@ssmu.mcgill.ca) before the affected Council date.
    - 1. Two (2) unexcused absences, even if they are not consecutive, will result in immediate suspension.
    - Consistent tardiness will merit warning, and may or may not result in suspension as per the Parliamentarian and Speaker's discretion.
  - 2. All members must dress professionally, as per their discretion.
  - 3. All members must refrain from speaking when they do not have the floor.
- 2. When Guest Speakers are present, all laptops, excluding those of the dais, must be closed in respect to the Guest Speaker.

#### REPORTS

- 1. All Councillors, Executives, and Committees must submit a report detailing their activities related to the SSMU/their respective constituency since the last Council meeting.
  - 1. All reports must be submitted no later than midnight (11:59 PM) of the Sunday immediately preceding Council, with the exceptions of the Funding Committee, Interest Group Committee, and the Executive Committee.
  - 2. Late reports will count as having been submitted, but consistent tardiness may result in suspension, as per the Speaker's discretion.
- 2. Failure to submit three (3) reports will result in suspension.

# 4. SPEAKING

- 1. To speak, members must place their placards vertically to alert the Speaker.
- When rising with an interrupting point or motion (as defined by Robert's Rules), members must raise their placards and hold them high.
- 3. When granted speaking rights, members must stand and address the Speaker.
- 4. The following time limits for speaking will be enforced by the Speaker. A simple majority can extend all time limits.

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- 1. a default speaking time of one (1) minute.
- 2. a default speaking time for Councillor reports of three (3) minutes.
- 3. a default speaking time for Executive and Committee reports of five (5) minutes.
- 4. the default speaking times for Councillor, Executive and Committee reports will be immediately followed by a question period of five (5) minutes.
- 5. Motions to call the question will not be entertained until five (5) members have spoken, and/or at least after five (5) minutes of debate has taken place as per the Internal Regulations of the Presidential Portfolio.

#### MAIN MOTIONS

- 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.
  - 1. This rule shall not apply for motions that must be moved only by the Executives.
- 2. Members must submit main motions to the Parliamentarian by 6:00 PM on the Thursdays preceding Council
- 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 (11:59 PM) to submit the final version of the motion to the Parliamentarian.
  - 1. At this point, the motions can no longer be amended before Council.
- 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. Motions requiring 2 or more readings must:
  - 1. Not come from the floor.
  - 2. Must have at least 6 days between the readings.

#### 6. AMENDMENTS

- 1. All amendments must be submitted to the Parliamentarian in writing.
- 2. Friendly amendments will be acknowledged only if all movers unanimously accept them. They will be included without a vote.
  - 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.
  - 2. Friendly amendments may be made after the motion has been moved if no member objects.
- 3. Unfriendly amendments require a simple majority for inclusion.



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#### 7. VOTING

- For all main motions and subsidiary motions of substance, a roll call 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.
  - 1. Exceptions to this blanket roll call requirement include the subsidiary motions to call the question and to lay on the table.
- 2. A member may request a roll call vote to any motion at any time so long as the five (5) speakers/minutes requirement is met. This rule supersedes 7.1 and 7.1.1.
- 3. Roll call votes will be recorded manually until an electronic clicker system is put into place.

### 8. SUSPENSION

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).

