

approved 10/30/08



Students' Society of McGill University  
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

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## CHOOSE LIFE CONSTITUTION

Ratified by Membership on: October 3, 2008

Ratified by SSMU Council on:

### ARTICLE I: Name

1.1 Choose Life, also referred to as the Club.

### ARTICLE II: Mandate

2.1 The Club's aim is to promote respect for human life and human rights from conception. The Club seeks this end primarily through:

- Providing opportunities for members to practice defending the pro-life message
- Educating members and others on the value of human life from conception by providing information about child development and hosting speakers
- Encouraging dialogue on life issues, such as sexual ethics, pregnancy, child development, abortion, adoption, and parenthood by holding discussion groups and being open to public discussion at educational events
- Providing information and resources on pregnancy options and post-abortion help, making it available online and at club events
- Helping student-parents get practical support

Note: Conception is defined as the moment fertilization occurs.

2.2 Code of Conduct

- 2.2.1 Equal respect shall be given to all members, regardless of personal position.
- 2.2.2 No member shall make personal profit from the club.

### ARTICLE III: Membership

- 3.1 Membership in a Student's Society Club is open to everyone.
- 3.2 Only Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) and Post Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) members are eligible to be elected as executive committee members and to hold voting privileges.
- 3.3 Associated non-voting membership is open to all others.

### ARTICLE IV: Executive Committee

- 4.1 The Executive Committee (EC) shall administer the Club and oversee its events in working toward fulfilling the Club mandate.
- 4.2 The EC is composed of the following five portfolios:
  - 1. President
  - 2. Vice President External
  - 3. Vice President Internal
  - 4. Treasurer
  - 5. Secretary
- 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.

### 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 a EC deadlock.
  - 5.1.6 Co-sign all financial transactions with the Treasurer.



- 5.1.7 Co-sign all minutes with the Secretary.
- 5.2. The Vice President External shall:
- 5.2.1 Act as representative of the Club to the community within and outside of the University.
  - 5.2.2 Be responsible for developing healthy relations with student and community organizations within and outside McGill, and particularly those in the Montreal area.
  - 5.2.3 Be responsible for promoting the image of the Club to the community within and outside McGill University.
- 5.3. The Vice President Internal shall:
- 5.3.1 Be responsible for communication within the EC and with the Students' Society of McGill University.
  - 5.3.2 Maintain the membership list of the club.
  - 5.3.3 Oversee and coordinate the programming activities and events of the club.
- 5.4. The Treasurer shall:
- 5.4.1 Oversee and coordinate funding for the programming activities and events of the club.
  - 5.4.2 Be responsible for the collection of membership fees.
  - 5.4.3 Co-sign all financial transactions with the President.
  - 5.4.4 Ensure the funding and financial stability of the club.
  - 5.4.5 Keep track of all financial transactions and receipts in order to prepare the biyearly audits for the SSMU.
- 5.5. The Secretary shall:
- 5.5.1 Take minutes at EC and general meetings, and ensure proper distribution of all minutes.
  - 5.5.2 Co-sign all minutes with the President.
  - 5.5.3 Shall be responsible for booking and arranging meeting rooms, organizing and obtaining refreshments, and drafting agendas for general meetings.

#### **ARTICLE VI: Fees**

- 6.1 The Club shall have no mandatory membership fees.

#### **ARTICLE VII: Finances**

- 7.1 The EC 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.

#### **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 and/or Committee Chair.

#### **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

#### **ARTICLE X: Affiliations**



10.1 The Club shall be affiliated with National Campus Life Network.

**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 consensus on the proposed amendment must be reached at a General Meeting.
- 11.3 All amendments shall be ratified by the SSMU council before they take effect.

**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.

**ARTICLE XIII: SSMU Constitution**

- 13.1 In case of any inconsistencies between the Club Constitution and the SSMU Constitution and By-Laws, the SSMU Constitution and By-Laws shall take effect.
- 13.2 If there are any areas not covered in this Constitution, the SSMU Constitution and By-Laws shall take effect.