



## MOTION REGARDING REFERENDUM QUESTION ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

**Whereas**, the changes to the titles and descriptions of executive positions made in Winter 2016 with the addition of a seventh executive position require adjustment, in particular to highlight the relative importance of sustainability to the portfolio of the Vice-President (Operations) and to return the management of human resources to the Office of the President;

**Whereas**, changes relating to the General Assembly (GA) have been proposed by the Ad-Hoc Democratic Governance Review Committee in order to empower the GA, facilitate the holding of GAs, accurately reflect current logistical practices, and remove redundancies and inconsistencies between the Constitution and the Internal Regulations;

**Whereas**, changes to the powers and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, altered significantly in Winter 2016, have been proposed by the Ad-Hoc Democratic Governance Review Committee, in particular to reduce the authority of the Board of Directors over the governing documents of the Society and empower the Board of Directors to suspend Officers;

**Whereas**, the Society's territorial acknowledgement is one aspect of its commitment to Indigenous solidarity as an ongoing learning process, and should be updated to recognize the Anishinaabe claim to the territory on which McGill University is situated;

**Whereas**, several outstanding ambiguities and errors in the Constitution require correction, in particular the definition of "Policy", the duties of the Speaker, and the status of the Judicial Board as body of the Board of Directors;

**Whereas**, the proposed amendments to the Constitution are attached hereto as Appendix A;

**Be it resolved**, that the following question be approved for the Winter 2017 Referendum period:

"Do you agree to amend the SSMU Constitution as detailed in Appendix A?"

**Be it further resolved**, that the above whereas clauses be included with this question on the ballot, and that a link to Appendix A be provided.

**Moved by:**

Tuviere Okome, Environment Representative  
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)  
Maria Thomas, Arts Representative  
Isabella Anderson, , Arts Representative



## APPENDIX A – AMENDMENTS TO THE SSMU CONSTITUTION

**Be it resolved**, that the Land Acknowledgement be amended as follows:

The SSMU acknowledges that McGill University is situated on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg and Kanien'kehá:ka Nations, and a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst various Indigenous peoples. The SSMU recognizes and respects the Kanien'kehá:ka these nations as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today it is located.

**Be it resolved**, that the definition of “Policy” be amended as follows:

“Policy” shall mean a long-term governing document of the Society such policies, as may be adopted by the Board of Directors in accordance with the Constitution and the Internal Regulations.

**Be it resolved**, that the second paragraph of article 7.1 be amended as follows:

Members who are not members of the Board of Directors shall receive notice of and be permitted to attend meetings of the Board of Directors, with the exception of confidential sessions. However, however they shall not have the right to vote and shall not be counted towards the quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors.

**Be it resolved**, that the first sentence of article 7.8 be amended as follows:

The Board of Directors may resolve to adjourn a meeting to a different time and fix the time and place of the adjourned meeting, without further notice to the Directors being required. The Speaker may, with the consent of the Directors in attendance at a meeting of the Board of Directors, adjourn any meeting of the Directors to another date and place that the Speaker chooses, without having to give further notice to the Directors.

**Be it resolved**, that the first sentence of article 8.10 be amended as follows:



~~In addition to the Judicial Board, the~~ The Legislative Council may, by way of resolution, create permanent committees and ad-hoc committees, as necessary, which shall have the powers and responsibilities as determined by the Legislative Council.

**Be it resolved**, that article 10.10 be amended as follows:

In case of absence, incapacity, a refusal or failure to act or for any other reason the Board of Directors considers sufficient, the Board of Directors may ~~delegate~~, exceptionally and for a determinate time period, ~~suspend an Officer's exercise of their powers and privileges or delegate~~ the powers of an Officer to any other Officer.

**Be it resolved**, that article 10.11 be amended as follows:

**PRESIDENT.** The President shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties: to be the chief officer and chief spokesperson of the Society; to ensure the long-term integrity of the Society; to enforce the Constitution and Internal Regulations of the Society and ensure the maintenance of the governance documents; to chair and coordinate the activities of the Executive Committee; ~~to manage the Society's human resources~~; to call meetings of and set the agenda for the Legislative Council and the Board of Directors; to manage relations between the Society and the administration of McGill University; and to represent the Members on the University Senate and Board of Governors.

**Be it resolved**, that article 10.15 be amended as follows:

**VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE).** The Vice-President (Finance) shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties: to ensure the long-term financial stability of the Society; to provide the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors with regular reports on the financial status of the Society; to develop the annual budget of the Society in a manner consistent with the ~~Policy and~~ ~~governing documents of the Society and the~~ priorities set out by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors; to ensure that no individual or group disburses the Society's funds without authorization; to manage any Society group insurance plan duly approved by the Members, in a manner



consistent with the governing documents of the Society ~~Policy set out by the Board of Directors~~; to authorize all agreements that bind the Society; ~~to manage the Society's human resources~~; and to act as the representative of the SSMU to the SSMU Daycare Inc.

**Be it resolved**, that article 10.16 be amended as follows:

**VICE-PRESIDENT (SUSTAINABILITY & OPERATIONS).** The Vice-President (Sustainability & Operations) shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties: to manage the use of the William Shatner University Centre; to coordinate the physical development of the William Shatner University Centre; to oversee the management of the Society's business operations; ~~to represent the Members on University bodies in charge of space and operational planning~~; and to operationalize the Society's commitment to environmental sustainability and physical accessibility.

**Be it resolved**, that every reference to "Vice-President (Operations)" be replaced with "Vice-President (Sustainability & Operations)";

**Be it resolved**, that article 11.1 be amended as follows:

**FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.** There shall be a body of the Society called the Executive Committee, which shall govern the Society between meetings of Board of Directors, in a manner not inconsistent with ~~a Policy set out by the Board of Directors~~ the governing documents of the Society.

**Be it resolved**, that article 11.6 be amended as follows:

**SPEAKER.** The Executive Committee shall appoint, from among the Members, a Speaker, and may appoint Vice-Speakers from among the Members as it deems necessary. The Speaker shall receive notice of and preside over the General Assembly, meetings of the Legislative Council, ~~meetings of the Board of Directors~~ and, where applicable, meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee. For greater certainty, the Speaker may not vote or be counted towards the quorum at meetings over which the Speaker presides.



**Be it resolved**, that section 13 be amended as follows:

### 13. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**13.1. GENERAL.** A General Assembly shall receive and take notice of the annual report of the Board of Directors, the financial statements of the Society, including the balance sheet and statements of revenue and expenditures and the report of the auditors, and take notice of, and decide on, any other matter which the General Assembly may legally consider.

A General Assembly may establish, amend or rescind any Policy of the Society, ~~except~~ but may not alter the following:

- (a) the Constitution ~~or the Internal Regulations~~;
- (b) membership fees or other financial matters of the Society; and
- (c) the composition of the Society's staff.

~~Furthermore, a Special General Assembly may be held in conjunction with a General Assembly of Members. Notice of a Special General Assembly shall specify the nature of the business to be transacted thereat and no other business than that specified in the notice shall be transacted.~~

**13.2. PROCEDURES AND CALLING OF THE MEETINGS.** ~~At the instruction of the Executive Committee, the~~ The Speaker shall call a regular General Assembly to be held once during each ~~fall~~ Fall and ~~winter~~ Winter semester. ~~Items on the agenda shall be submitted in writing to the Speaker two weeks before the date of the regular General Assembly by either the Board of Directors, no fewer than four (4) Councillors or one hundred (100) Members of the Society from at least four (4) different faculties or schools without more than fifty percent (50%) being from any one faculty or school.~~

Furthermore, the Speaker shall call a Special General Assembly if requested to do so by a resolution of the Legislative Council, or in writing ~~either~~ by no fewer than ~~four (4) Councillors or one hundred (100)~~ fifty (50) Members of the Society from at least four (4) different faculties or schools with no more than fifty percent (50%) being from any one faculty or school.

General Assemblies shall be called by way of a notice sent by electronic mail. The notice of the meeting shall specify the place, the date, and the time of such meeting. For a Special General Assembly, the notice shall additionally specify the nature of the business to be transacted, in which case no business that is not germane to the nature specified in the notice shall be transacted. The notice must be sent no less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the date set for the meeting. ~~This term may be reduced to twenty-four (24) hours in instances deemed urgent by the President.~~



~~In the event that no motions are validly submitted, the General Assembly in question shall be cancelled.~~

General Assemblies shall be conducted according to the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, in its most current edition, subject to any special rules of procedure adopted by the ~~Board of Directors~~ Legislative Council.

- 13.3. PLACE OF MEETING.** General Assemblies shall be held at the downtown campus of the University.
- 13.4. QUORUM.** Unless the Act or the Letters Patent of the Society dictate otherwise, quorum for a regular General Assembly shall be one hundred (100) Members of the Society. ~~society from at least four (4) different faculties or schools. A maximum of fifty (50) Members from a particular faculty or school are counted for purposes of quorum.~~

The Speaker shall not be counted towards the quorum at the General Assembly.

- 13.5. ADJOURNMENT WITHOUT QUORUM.** If quorum is not reached at a General Assembly, those Members present shall have the power to adjourn the meeting and fix the time of the adjourned meeting. ~~until the quorum is reached. No notice is required for any adjourned meeting provided a quorum is reached.~~ At the continuance of the meeting, the Members may resume dealing with the business for which the original meeting was called.
- 13.6. RESOLUTION WITHOUT QUORUM.** In the event that a General Assembly fails to meet quorum or loses quorum at any point, it may nonetheless transact business, but any resolutions passed without quorum shall not be binding unless subsequently ratified as set forth in the Internal Regulations.
- 13.7. STRIKE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.** A Special General Assembly may be called to consider business related to a Society strike ~~for a motion to strike.~~

Quorum for a ~~strike General Assembly~~ resolution to put the Society on strike shall be five hundred (500) Members of the Society. ~~from at least four (4) different faculties or schools. A maximum of two hundred and fifty (250) Members from a particular faculty or school shall be counted for purposes of quorum.~~

- 13.8. VOTING.** All Members shall be eligible to vote at a General Assembly. Unless otherwise provided for in the Act, this Constitution, or the Internal Regulations, all questions submitted to the Members shall be decided by a Simple Majority. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

The Speaker shall not have the right to vote at meetings of the General Assembly.



**13.9. RATIFICATION.** Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly that do not pass online ratification shall be null. The quorum for all General Assembly ratifications shall be ten percent (10%) of the Members.

~~**13.9. CONSULTATIVE FORUM.** In the event that the General Assembly fails to meet quorum or loses quorum at any point, a consultative forum shall be established, wherein the Members present may debate issues, but not vote on any matter, the whole as set forth in the Internal Regulations.~~

**Be it resolved,** that article 14.2 be amended as follows:

**INITIATION.** Referenda may be initiated by the Legislative Council, ~~the Board of Directors~~ or Members, in accordance with the Internal Regulations.

APPROVED