



MOTION REGARDING THE CREATION OF AN AD-HOC DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Whereas, through a referendum passed in April 2016, the SSMU increased the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, modified the composition of the Board of Directors by creating seats for members at large, established committees of the Board of Directors, and separated the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and the Legislative Council;¹

Whereas, the Board of Directors is legally the highest governing body of the SSMU, but its powers are not clearly limited by the Constitution and the Internal Regulations;

Whereas, there is no requirement that the Board of Directors report to the Legislative Council or to the General Assembly, that the meetings of the Board of Directors be held at publicly available regular times, nor that the minutes of its meetings be public;²

Whereas, the democratic legitimacy of the Board of Directors depends on the transparency of its procedures and decisions;

Whereas, following concerns raised by both SSMU councillors and by the general membership, the 2015-2016 Ad-Hoc Electoral Reform Committee recommended in its final report that an ad-hoc committee be created in Fall 2016 to review the procedures of the General Assembly;³

Be it resolved, that an Ad-Hoc Democratic Governance Review Committee be created with the terms of reference specified in Appendix A;

Be it further resolved, that the following Councillors be appointed to this Committee:

- Igor Sadikov
- Kevin Zhou
- Olivia Shi
- Adam Templer

Moved by:

Igor Sadikov, Arts Representative; Isabella Anderson, Arts Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs); Ben Ger (President); Joshua Chin (Senate Caucus Representative)

¹ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Council-Notice-of-Motion-Regarding-Restructuring-of-the-Board-of-Directors-2016-04-07.pdf>

² <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Internal-Regulations-of-Governance-2016-06-28.pdf>

³ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Report-of-the-Electoral-Reform-Committee.docx>



APPENDIX A – AD-HOC DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

- 1.1. OVERSIGHT.** The Ad-Hoc Democratic Governance Review Committee (hereinafter “Committee”) shall be a committee of the Legislative Council.
- 1.2. GENERAL.** The Committee shall review and recommend changes to the role, structure, and procedures of the SSMU’s highest decision-making bodies (the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Legislative Council, and the General Assembly). The mandate of the Committee shall be to facilitate democratic participation and to ensure the transparency and accountability of both elected and appointed bodies.
- 1.3. RESPONSIBILITIES.** The Committee shall:
- a) review and evaluate the implementation of the changes to the Board of Directors approved in April 2016;
 - b) review the role, composition, procedures, and reporting mechanisms of the Board of Directors, as well as its relationship to the Legislative Council and to the Executive Committee;
 - c) review the role, composition, and procedures of the committees of the Board of Directors;
 - d) review the powers and procedures of the General Assembly, as well as its relationship to the Legislative Council and to the Board of Directors;
 - e) identify and propose changes to address any inconsistencies, ambiguities, and omissions in the Constitution and Internal Regulations that lie within the scope of the Committee’s mandate;
 - f) consult and coordinate with the Ad-Hoc Equitable Governance Reform Committee regarding any proposed changes to the composition of the Board of Directors or other relevant proposals.
- 1.4. MEMBERSHIP.** The Committee shall consist of:



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Located on unceded, Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory

- a) four (4) Councillors;
- b) one (1) Director who is not a Councillor;
- c) the President (advisory);
- d) the Vice-President (University Affairs) (advisory);
- e) three (3) Members at Large.

1.5. **CHAIR.** The Committee shall elect a Chair from among its members.

1.6. **REPORTING.** The Committee shall report to the Legislative Council by the end of the academic year.

APPROVED