

REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

APRIL 6TH, 2017

Meeting:

- Uditia was outside of town, so Victor and two members at large met on the weekend in order to discuss their progress in the sampling and organization of data pertaining the accountability of executives and councillor
- Accountability in the context of the Legislative Council was defined as generally being consistent and diligent in attendance, submission of all required material and contributing to fulfilling one's mandate with a positive attitude.
- Every member of the Accountability committee is responsible for mirroring Execs' reports with their mandates outlined in the standing rules and checking off what is present and absent
 - This constitutes one basic part of the accountability evaluation
- Fixing mistakes from last semester's survey
 - Prepare an effective and thorough survey now, to be used in the 2017-2018 year
 - Give 2 weeks as opposed to 2 days for the submission of answers

Name of the Committee

- In light of events surrounding the 2016-2017 year, the Accountability Committee found it difficult to go about punitive measures since we are a body that exists to conduct research and give advisory opinions.
- For this reason, the word "accountability" carries too much weight since it conflicts with our limited abilities to truly enforce it.
- Since this mandate would generally, and best be addressed by a body such as Human Resources, we decided to re-evaluate and codify the purpose of this committee in a name that is more accurate.
 - We picked "Representative's Responsibility" as the new name for this committee given the fact that:
 - Executives and councilors are representatives of members at large at McGill University as well as various constituencies within McGill University.
 - Matters pertaining to attendance, punctuality, submission of reports and verbal involvement at meetings are responsibilities that all councillors must abide by, and failure to do so is not to be taken lightly but made available so that those who do not take their responsibilities seriously are dealt with appropriately.
 - The new surveys we have will give individual statistics of attendance and punctuality (either on time or late) bi-weekly submission of reports and involvement (# of moves on a motion & raised placards in council)
 - They will also feature the mandate as stipulated by the SSMU or the constituency they work for – as well as highlighted words from their reports that correspond to the responsibilities in question.

Pros of Accountability Committee 2016-2017

- Moving into a direction where matters pertaining to HR are dealt with by them, respectively.
- Building upon the recommendations set forth to it by the councillors of the Legislative Council, whom have ask that individual grades on one's adherence to their mandate be confidential.
 - Statistics pertaining to basic responsibilities for one to be deemed competent enough to sit on council will be made public.
- Thorough research on every mandate will be necessary to veer away from vague survey questions, and make ones that are tailored to the exec in question
 - We will only have councillors that worked with the exec in question to judge their adherence to the mandate since they are best fit to do so compared to those who do not sit on committees on them.

Cons of Accountability Committee 2016-2017

- Due to the aforementioned reasons, as well as extenuating circumstances, we were not able to send a survey that would effectively produce significant results.

Recommendations for 2017-2018

- Findings of Accountability Committee will be published on a separate section on the Website
 - To ensure transparency to the McGill population, adding a section to the website will allow constituents to get the information they need and want
- Councillor Reporting
 - For future reporting for Councillors, we recommend that the President, Parliamentarian and Speaker have a separate folder in SSMU Vibe, where they all submit reports themselves
 - This will make it easier to track reports, and hold Councillors accountable to submit reports without the Parliamentarian having to remind them every week
 - The Parliamentarian will still choose who reports every week, but this way we can mitigate the red tape that involves emailing the Parliamentarian
 - Another suggestion we have is reporting on Google Forms, where Councillors can just fill out a Google Form every other week reporting their involvement
 - Attendance
 - We are recommending that the Speaker and the Parliamentarian keep online records of the Attendance of Councillors
 - With either Late, Excused, Absent or Present as the modes of keeping track
 - The attendance records for this year semester were a bit rocky due to the issues we had to deal with.
 - Committee Attendance
 - We are recommending that Executives that keep track of the attendance of Councillors, which we will take into consideration in Accountability Committee
- Executive Reporting
 - Attendance
 - Feedback from Councillors in a Confidential Session
 - Each member of Accountability Committee will be responsible for analyzing and going through Executive Goal for the Year and provide an analysis of whether or

not they met their goals, and how far they were able to accomplish specific actions

Accountability Committee Findings

Example of Executive Elaine Patterson

Since we are under the President's portfolio, we took the former President's drafted document on SSMU Executive Goals and Objectives as a guideline for evaluation.

VP Student Life

1. Student Groups
 - Co-curricular Record Recognition
 - o Comment: Working closely with the Club Committee was very predominant at the start of reports while being given importance wherever relevant on council discussions.
 - Club Workshops
 - o Comment: Although a lot of them were created and active, the turnout rates were low. A recommendation would be to work on promotional mechanisms or incentives that will encourage higher attendance.
 - SSMU Services Constitution Review
 - o Based on reporting, the VP has constantly met with various services to ensure that they clearly define mandates for the provision of resources, education, and support. However a minor problem was the inability to host a second Services Summit, which can be understood in light of time constraints and the events surrounding the Winter semester of 2017.
2. Mental Health
 - Mental Health Roundtable
 - o Comment: Discussions of different benefits that mental health services provide were promoted on the VP's reports as well as their speeches. Moreover, these events took place to their full fruition.
 - SSMU Mental Health Policy Review
 - o Comment: The VP always addressed Mental Health Policy Review in their participation in council, their reports, while also providing resources, awareness, advocacy and solidarity for students through their office hours and institutionalized projects. Moreover, they were always punctual in meeting and working with Mental Health Commissioners and the Mental Health Committees.
3. Miscellaneous
 - Free Menstrual Products Policy
 - o Comment: The VP clearly spearheaded the policy to provide menstrual hygiene products free of charge on campus, present as a mover on the motion itself as well as its prevalence in their reports.