



Submitted for: October 11th, 2018

### Motion Regarding Responsible Representation 2018-10-11

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the Policy on Responsible Representation (as outlined in Appendix B) be adopted as a Policy of the SSMU;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT** this Policy expires on May 1st, 2023.

**Moved By:**

Bryan Buraga, Senate Caucus

Andrew Figueiredo, Arts Representative

Brandon Hersh, Dentistry Representative

Haoyi Qiu, Science Representative

**NOT APPROVED**



## Appendix A

### Policy on Responsible Representation

1. **SCOPE.** This Policy shall apply to all casual and full-time staff, volunteers, Officers, Commissioners, and elected officials of the SSMU, as well as all those who have access to SSMU-affiliated social media accounts.
2. **DEFINITIONS.**
  - 2.1. **COMPLAINANT.** A Member of the Society filing a complaint for a violation of this Policy.
  - 2.2. **OPINION.** A view or judgment formed about a particular issue , not necessarily based on fact or knowledge.
  - 2.3. **REPRESENTATION.** Statements made to communicate an opinion, position, or stance.
  - 2.4. **RESPONDENT.** The person that a complaint for a violation of this Policy is filed against.
  - 2.5. **SSMU-AFFILIATED SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT.** Any account on social media that bears the name “SSMU”, in part or in whole, as the main title of the account.
  - 2.6. **ON BEHALF OF SSMU.** Representations made from a SSMU-Affiliated Social Media Account that are seen to represent SSMU or an affiliated position.
3. **GENERAL.** All those who make representations on behalf of the SSMU to the public (including, but not limited to: the press), as well as all those who make representations on SSMU-affiliated social media accounts, must follow the regulations listed as follows:
  - 3.1. **FULFILLMENT OF MANDATE.** It is permitted to make a representation on behalf of SSMU if it is necessary to fulfill the mandate of a policy, resolution, officer position, or in reference to a governance document. This may include, but is not limited to: communicating information about events to students, posting information for the benefit of students, and stating opinions, policies, and positions duly passed by the Legislative Council, the Executive Committee, or by the membership through Referendum or the General Assembly.
  - 3.2. **AUTHORIZATION OF COMMUNICATIONS.** It is not permitted to unilaterally make a representation on behalf of SSMU without having a mandate from the



Legislative Council, the Executive Committee, or by the membership through Referendum or the General Assembly, assuming quorum is met.

- 3.3. **REPRESENTATION OF INDIVIDUAL OPINION.** It is not permitted to express an individual opinion that does not have the documented mandate of support from SSMU's membership on behalf of the SSMU or on its affiliated social media accounts.
- 3.4. **SSMU-AFFILIATED SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS.** Representations (including, but not limited to: posts, tweets, and photos) made on SSMU-affiliated social media accounts are to be considered as official statements by the SSMU, and as such, should only be used to represent the policies and positions duly authorized by the SSMU.
4. **VIOLATIONS OF POLICY.** Any Member of the Society is able to file a complaint if they believe that this Policy has been violated. Should an allegation of a violation of this policy arise, the following procedure shall be taken to rectify the violation:
  - 4.1. **ADJUDICATION.** A complaint shall first be adjudicated by the Executive Committee.
    - 4.1.1. **RECEIPT OF COMPLAINT.** A Complainant must file a complaint, in writing, to the President of the Society. They must state who they allege has violated this Policy and must explain how the Respondent has violated the Policy. If the Complainant wishes to file a complaint against the President for violating this Policy, they must file a complaint to the Vice-President (Internal).
    - 4.1.2. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.** Upon the receipt of a complaint, the Executive Committee shall address the complaint within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving it. If necessary, the President shall call an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee. The Complainant and Respondent have the right to be informed of the time and place of the meeting and be able to attend. If the Complainant or Respondent is unable to attend the meeting, they may send a written statement to express their arguments. If an Officer is the Respondent, they may not attend the deliberations of the complaint except to express their arguments regarding the complaint.
    - 4.1.3. **DECISION.** The Legislative Council shall decide by a simple majority if the decision made by the Executive Committee should be stayed or



overturned after considering the arguments of both the Complainant and the Respondent. Should an Officer or Councillor be accused of violating this Policy, they shall not be able to vote to decide the result of the complaint.

4.1.4. **REMEDY.** Should the Respondent be found in violation of the Policy, within twenty-four (24) hours of the adjudication by the Executive Committee, they must remove the offending representation (should it be on a SSMU-affiliated social media account) and/or issue a statement regarding the retraction of the representation.

4.1.5. **REPORT.** After the adjudication of a complaint, the Executive Committee must detail their proceedings in their report to the Legislative Council.

4.2. **APPEAL.** The Complainant or the Respondent may appeal to the Legislative Council if they are dissatisfied with the decision made by the Executive Committee. They must transmit, in writing, a Notice of Appeal to the Speaker of the Legislative Council. The Legislative Council shall consider this appeal at their next regular meeting unless an extraordinary meeting is called to specifically adjudicate this appeal. If an Officer or Councillor is the Respondent, they may not attend the deliberations of the complaint except to express their arguments regarding the complaint.

4.2.1. **DECISION.** The Legislative Council shall decide if the decision made by the Executive Committee should be stayed or overturned after considering the arguments of both the Complainant and the Respondent. Should an Officer or Councillor be accused of violating this Policy, they shall not be able to vote to decide the result of the complaint.

4.2.2. **REMEDY.** Should the Respondent be found in violation of the Policy, within twenty-four (24) hours of the adjudication by the Legislative Council, they must remove the offending representation (should it be on a SSMU-affiliated social media account) and/or issue a statement regarding the retraction of the representation.