



# MOTION REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE 2020-04-02

Submitted for: 2020-03-26

|                      |  |                        |  |
|----------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| <b>Submitted to:</b> | SSMU Legislative Council                                       | <b>Document no.:</b>   | LEG-PUB-MOT-2020-03-26-004<br>(to be assigned by Steering)   |
| <b>Moved by:</b>     | Adam Gwiazda-Amsel<br><i>Vice-President (External Affairs)</i> | <b>Current Status:</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED<br><input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED<br><input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED<br><input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED |
| <b>Seconded by:</b>  | Jonah Fried<br><i>Inter-Residence Council Representative</i>   |                        |  |

## Issue

The Francophone Affairs and Environment Committees have associated Executive supervisors ill-fitted to accommodate the usual activities of these committees. This motion seeks to rectify that. Furthermore, the Environment Committee is amended to fit with the Policy on Effective Committees.

## Background and Rationale

It is standard practice for Terms of Reference to evolve year-over-year, adjusting to the realities of what works within our structures and what doesn't. In conversation with the commissioners attached to these committees, it seemed the Executive in charge of facilitating the activities of these committees was perhaps not best suited for this role.

Francophone affairs has dealt in the last few years primarily with bringing together the Francophone student community of McGill, enhancing SSMU's French communications, and examining McGill's academic accommodations for Francophone students. None of these activities are particularly well-advanced through the External Affairs portfolio.

One potential reason why the Francophone Affairs committee was placed in this Office in the first place was its link to 'community' and the wider Quebec arena. This, however, ignores the actual work done by the committee, which services McGill's underrepresented Francophone population and requires enhanced communication and consultation



platforms facilitated through regular contact with the Communications Department and the Vice-President (Internal Affairs). This is why the proposed relocation is in the Internal Affairs portfolio, rather than the University Affairs portfolio.

As for sustainability, the proposed relocation of Francophone Affairs risks overloading the Internal Affairs portfolio. Furthermore, the Sustainability Policy gives primarily leadership over Sustainability initiatives to the SSMU President, not the Vice-President (Internal Affairs). This is because sustainability's three-pronged approach (financial, social, environmental) requires a bird's-eye view on the Society's activities and planning, which is found in the President's office.

Finally, the creation of a Governance office at the SSMU alleviates the President's workload.

---

### Alignment with Mission

These committees will function more efficiently and student staff will receive the support they need as a result of these changes. This is what we aspire to in our Human Resources practices.

---

### Consultations Completed

This decision was taken in conversation with the Sustainability Commissioners and Francophone Affairs Commissioner.

---

### Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Simple relocation. Best practices can be accessed through cross-training and exit reports from previous years.

---

### Sustainability Considerations

Tweaking and improving committees allows for long-term continuity in the efforts of the Society (institutional sustainability).

---

### Impact of Decision and Next Steps

The Executive Committee will pass a motion shifting supervisory duties of each staff to the appropriate Executive.

The Communications Department will work with the Governance Manager to ensure the appropriate changes are reflected in the Committee Terms of Reference book.

---



Motion or  
Resolution for  
Approval

*Be It Resolved, That* the amendment to the Committee Terms of Reference (Appendix A) be adopted.

Results of the  
Vote

In favour ()  
Opposed ()  
Abstain ()

## APPENDIX A: Committee ToRs Amendments

### 4.4. Membership

The Environment Committee shall consist of:

- a. the Sustainability Commissioner(s) (Committee Chairs);
- b. ~~the Vice-President (Internal)~~ the SSMU President;
- c. one (1) Councillor;
- d. a minimum of five (5) Members at Large; and
- e. one (1) representative from each environmental undergraduate student group, as determined by the Sustainability Commissioner(s).

### 6.4. Membership

The Francophone Affairs Committee shall consist of:

- a. the Francophone Affairs Commissioner (Chair, non-voting);
- b. Vice-President (~~External~~ Internal Affairs);
- c. two (2) Councillors; and
- d. one (1) representative from each francophone undergraduate student group or association, as determined by the Francophone Affairs Commissioner.