



NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE EFFECTIVE COMMITTEES POLICY 2020-01-16

Submitted for: 2020-01-16

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Moved by:	Adam Gwiazda-Amsel <i>Vice-President (External Affairs)</i>	Current Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Jo Roy <i>Social Work Representative</i>		

Issue

In examining the composition of the Legislative Council earlier this year, a discussion arose about the inclusion of equity-seeking groups in our own equity office. This issue can be expanded more broadly; the Committees of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) that do not confine themselves to SSMU processes cannot simply be set up to duplicate efforts of other groups. As a broad-tent student association, we have a responsibility to centralize and elevate the work being done on campus by our students.

Background and Rationale

This amendment to the Effective Committees Policy¹ will inform amendments proposed at the end of each calendar year, and will encourage increased dialogue between student groups on campus throughout the year, with SSMU Committees and Commissioners acting as brokers.

Furthermore, these amendments will encourage incoming Officers and Commissioners of the SSMU to dialogue with student groups whose activities are aligned with the central mission of the SSMU, such as sustainability, equity, community engagement, and mental health.

¹ [SSMU: J. Effective Committees Policy](#)



Alignment with Mission

Insofar as the SSMU is a representative student association, the organization ought to reach out for broad consultation whenever possible. This includes bringing folks and groups to the table when making decisions about sociopolitical issues.

Consultations Completed

The proposed approach was discussed with the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner and Sustainability Commissioners. It follows up on discussions around a proposed “Equity Caucus” as well as the need for increased dialogue as vocalized by groups on campus that compose the Solidarity Alliance McGill.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

If the amended text is not enforced, this need for increased dialogue will not be followed-through on. It therefore becomes incumbent upon Officers and Commissioners to take on the additional labour brought about by these structures.

Though Officers are expected to engage in broad consultations in everything they do, this may impose additional hours onto Commissioners, which would need to be budgeted out from the funds they manage.

Sustainability Considerations

The social sustainability introduced through these amendments cannot be overstated. For SSMU Committees to do meaningful, inclusive work year-over-year encourages increased engagement with and longevity of the projects the committees initiate.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Once adopted, the amendments to the Effective Committees Policy will be communicated by the appropriate Supervisor to every Committee Chair affected by these amendments. The relevant Supervisor will work with the Committee Chair to determine a list of groups that are to be solicited for committee seats and ongoing dialogue at the start of the 2020-2021 academic year.

For clarity, the Supervisors in question are:

- a. Francophone Affairs: Vice-President (External)
- b. Community Engagement: Vice-President (External)
- c. Environment: Vice-President (Internal)



- d. Equity: Vice-President (University Affairs)
- e. Indigenous Affairs: Themselves
- f. Mental Health: Vice-President (Student Life)

**Motion or
Resolution for
Approval**

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the Policy amendments in Appendix A.

**Results of the
Vote**

In favour ()
Opposed ()
Abstain ()

FOR APPROVAL



Appendix A

Effective Committees Policy

SSMU committees have the following expectations during the academic year:

1. A SSMU committee will report at least once during the year to its respective body
2. A SSMU committee will make recommendations (if any) to its Terms of Reference at the end of each Academic Year
3. A SSMU committee will submit an exit report highlighting the years work for documentation purposes
4. A SSMU committee treating on external issues has the responsibility to reserve seats for student groups that work on similar subject matter, as determined by the incoming and outgoing Committee Chairs at the start of each academic year
5. The chair of a SSMU committee treating on external issues has a responsibility to engage in dialogue with groups that work on similar subject matter throughout the year in order to amplify the work being done by these groups
 - a. A SSMU committee treating on external issues that is given access to a portion of a SSMU fund may use this funding both for their own activities and in the co-creation of initiatives with other student groups engaged in similar work

In keeping with these principles, we hope to build strong committees for the Society that build year after year.