



MOTION REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA 2020-09-08

Submitted for: 2020-09-08

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2020-09-08-002
Moved by:	Jemark Earle <i>SSMU President</i>	Current Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Paige Collins <i>Arts Representative</i>		

Issue Elections SSMU is carrying out all Elections and Campaigning virtually this year, in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Thus, the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda should be revised to accurately reflect the functioning of the Society, and ensure better engagement with the Society.

Background and Rationale In order to hold successful elections throughout the year, the Elections SSMU team will need to remove certain in-person constraints on Electoral participation, due to COVID-19, as more challenges may arise with regards to soliciting nominations, and lower voter turnout. Additionally Elections SSMU would like to make better use of the features of our voting platform, SimplyVoting, by extending the use and format of candidate pensketches.

Alignment with Mission Allows Elections SSMU to provide fair, impartial and equitable elections in the case of Extenuating Circumstances.

Consultations Completed Consultations with the Elections SSMU team, the Governance Manager and the SSMU President were conducted.



Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Certain risk factors may occur in regards to these amendments: reduced nomination signatures may lead to candidates with decreased commitment and less voter engagement prior to the election. Video pensketches may cause contention in what content is allowed to be broadcast to the student body.

Sustainability Considerations

The SSMU is committed to fostering a culture of Anti-Oppression and Social Sustainability, as outlined in its Sustainability Policy. Adoption of these amendments will help to meet SSMU's anti-oppressive and equitable mandate as elaborated in the forgoing policy.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

The Elections SSMU team would be able to move forward with entirely virtual campaigning, and implement tools for further engagement (extending First Year Council Elections past September 30th, video pensketches, etc).

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the amendments to the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda in Appendix A.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(18)
Opposed	(0)
Abstain	(0)



Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-02: GENERAL

5.1. Reports to the Legislative Council

At the request of the Legislative Council, the Chief Electoral Officer shall report to the Legislative Council on any matters pertaining to Elections, Referenda, and their conduct. The Chief Electoral Officer shall also report to the Legislative Council and the Board of Directors in confidential session after each electoral period semester to disclose all demerits accrued by all candidates and campaign committees during that electoral periods.

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-05: CAMPAIGNING

4.1. Pensketches

All campaigns will provide a pensketch which will appear on the ballot. All Campaigns' Pensketches shall be made available through Elections SSMU and/or on the Society website at the start of the Polling Period Campaign Period, provided that they are submitted according to the deadline and requirements set by the Chief Electoral Officer. All candidates are entitled to a pensketch in English with a maximum length of 100 words and a French pensketch with a maximum length of 125 words, alongside a portrait picture.

4.2. Additions to Pensketches

The Chief Electoral Officer may offer additional elements to be added to the pensketch, including, but not limited to, video pensketches, additional pictures, and hyperlinks. These additions can only be used if unanimously consented to by candidates in a given electoral race (i.e. for a single position).



Additionally, it is the Chief Electoral Officer's responsibility to ensure that candidates have equal access to the resources needed to meet these additional requirements.

6.5. Restriction on Campaigning

The Chief Electoral Officer may prohibit campaigning activity or the dissemination of any campaign materials that, in their judgment, contravene the Governance Documents or the spirit of a fair campaign. Campaigns should seek the approval of the Chief Electoral Officer before disseminating any materials or engaging in any campaign activity but they shall nevertheless be ultimately responsible for activity engaged in, or material disseminated, on their behalf that contravenes the Governance Documents or the spirit of a fair campaign. In the case of exceptional circumstances, the Chief Electoral Officer may issue a mandate for approval by legislative council, restricting physical or electronic campaigning entirely, and change the minimum requirements for signatures to a value no lower than 25 per campaign. In the case of exceptional circumstances, the Chief Electoral Officer may issue a mandate for approval by Legislative Council, restricting physical or electronic campaigning entirely, and change the minimum requirements for signatures to a value no lower than 25 per campaign.

7.1. Maximum Campaign Expenses

Each Campaign shall be permitted to spend the following maximum amount, in Canadian dollars, on campaigning:

- a. Referendum Campaigns and Campaigns for Election as an Officer shall be permitted to spend a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300);
- b. Referendum Campaigns shall be permitted to spend a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400); and
- c. —b. Campaigns seeking a position as an executive of the First Year Council or as a Councillor representing the Society's Clubs, as a Councillor representing the Society's Services shall be permitted to spend a maximum of one hundred dollars (\$100).

7.5. Fair Market Value

All Campaigns must pay at least fair market value for any campaign expenses, which shall mean the lowest price for any given product available to the public in the Montreal region. Where a Campaign receives or purchases materials for less than Fair Market Value, the Campaign must declare the Fair Market Value for such expenses on their expense report. The Fair Market Value of materials shall be counted towards total campaign expenditures. The Chief Electoral Officer shall distribute detailed information to the Campaigns in advance and have final say in what constitutes as Fair Market Value.



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Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

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8.3. Responsibilities of the Organization

An organization wishing to give an endorsement is required to ensure that all Campaigns attend an in-person meeting of, and/or submit a written statement to, the organization in advance of an endorsement decision. After meeting the Campaigns receiving such written statements, an organization is not obliged to give an endorsement. Should they choose to give an endorsement, the organization shall:

- a. exclude any Campaign members or Referendum committee members from the endorsement decision-making process;
- b. disclose any affiliations of Campaigns to their organization in any Public Notice regarding an endorsement decision; and
- c. limit endorsements to electronic communications, such as an electronic mail to the membership, or through any of the organization's social media channels.

8.5. Impartiality of Officers

The Officers shall remain neutral in the execution of Society Elections or any other Elections run by Elections SSMU. This does not extend to Referendum questions.

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-06: POLLING, SCRUTINEERING, VOTING, AND COUNTING

4.1. Ballot

The position of each name on an Elections ballot shall be randomized for all ballots. Elections ballots shall include a "None of the Above" option. These Referenda options shall appear in the following order unless otherwise required:

- a. "Yes";
- b. "No"; and



- c. “Abstain”; and
- d. “None of these”.

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-08: SPECIAL ELECTIONS

1. Election of Councillors Representing the Society’s Clubs and Services

1.1 General

Three (3) Councillors shall be elected annually, with two (2) representing the Society’s Clubs and one (1) representing the Society’s Services. This Election shall be held via an electronic voting system administered by Elections SSMU and is to be held at the beginning of each academic year, with the Polling Period lasting for at least **seven (7) five (5)** business days. Public Notice shall be given at least ten (10) days prior to the first day of the Polling Period.

1.4. Nomination

Members must declare their candidacy for Councillor representing Clubs or Services to the Chief Electoral Officer by a time determined by Elections SSMU and the Vice-President (Student Life). Elections SSMU shall provide detailed instructions via electronic mail **and the Elections SSMU website.** **All candidates are entitled to submit a Pensketch, picture, and/or a video Pensketch, which shall be submitted along with the declaration of candidacy. There will be no extended Nomination Period for these positions; any vacant seats shall be filled in September of the following academic year.**

3. First Year Council Elections

3.2. Term of Office

The executive board members of the First Year Council shall be elected for a term of one (1) year during an Election occurring **before the third legislative council of the academic year September 30th.**