



Consultations Completed

This motion and the Committee herein are the products of extensive collaboration and consultation between the SSMU Vice-President (External Affairs), the Vice-President (University Affairs), the Black Students' Network, the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, and the Equity Commissioners.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Before a Black Equity Fee can be levied, the Black Affairs Committee will be funded out of SSMU's various student funds and the University Affairs and External Affairs executive budgets. Should the Black Equity Fee levy fail, the Black Affairs Committee could foreseeably create some strain on SSMU's budget.

Sustainability Considerations

The proposed amendments serve to increase the social sustainability of SSMU's practices and promote a strong, safe and empowering community by endeavouring to minimize systemic power imbalances within society and foster a culture of anti-oppression, as outlined in section 3.2 of the Sustainability Policy.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion pass, the Black Students' Network will be notified of the results and asked to select an Interim Chair to serve while the Black Affairs Commissioner is hired and onboarded.

The Interim Chair will be responsible for assembling the representatives to the Committee and preparing the Member-at-Large application process.

In the meantime, the Black Affairs Commissioner will receive training from the Black Students' Network, the Vice-President (External Affairs), the Vice-President (University Affairs), the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, and the Equity Commissioners on institutional advocacy and Committee Chairship.

The first responsibility of the Black Affairs Commissioner, as Chair of the Black Affairs Committee, will be to prepare a referendum question to levy a Black Equity Fee, used to establish a Black Affairs Department. The establishment of a Black Affairs Department will then mark the autonomy of the Black Affairs Commissioner and Committee.



**Motion or
Resolution for
Approval**

Be it resolved that the Black Affairs Committee be created as a standing committee of the Legislative Council under the terms outlined in *Appendix A - Terms of Reference* to be added to the Committee Terms of Reference;

Be it further resolved that a member of the Black Students' Network be mandated to serve as Interim Chair of the Committee until such time that a Black Affairs Commissioner is hired;

**Results of the
Vote**

In favour	(CONSENT)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()



Appendix A: Terms of Reference

COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

15. Black Affairs Committee

15.1 Oversight: The Black Affairs Committee will be a committee of the Legislative Council.

15.2 General: The Black Affairs Committee will confront historical and ongoing inequities at the University through institutional advocacy on governance and policy, and active engagement and public education, in a manner consistent with the Society's relevant policies.

15.2.1 Mandate:

1. The Black Affairs Committee will serve as a forum to unite representatives from every Black student group and association catering to undergraduate students.
2. The Black Affairs Committee will foster better communication and collaboration between these groups, in order to streamline their work and avoid redundancy.
3. The Black Affairs Committee will be primarily responsible for increasing institutional visibility and advocating for increased representation and services for Black Students.
4. The Black Affairs Committee will create a safe environment for Black students to voice their ideas and concerns about both the Society and the University.

15.3 Responsibilities: The Black Affairs Committee will:

- a) foster an understanding of Black equity as an active process through which individuals, institutions and cultures recognize historical and current bias and oppression;
- b) deconstruct this bias and oppression;
- c) take proactive steps to challenge the actions, attitudes and assumptions that contribute to these systems;
- d) advise the SSMU, its Governing Bodies, and Staff on issues pertaining to Black students;
- e) advocate for and advance matters concerning Black students on campus by:
 - i) connecting and facilitating cooperation between the Society, all members of the Black Affairs Working Group including, but not limited to, the Black Students' Network (BSN), the Caribbean Students Society (CSS), the McGill African Students Society (MASS), and the Black Law Students' Association (BLSA);
 - ii) soliciting student feedback regarding the Society's role in improving Black student life at McGill;
 - iii) monitoring the Society's compliance with its Policies and Plans as related to Black Affairs; and



- iv) identifying and making policy and institutional recommendations to address broader issues affecting Black communities on campus, in the Montreal community, and in Canada.
- f) identify and provide guidance to address Black student issues within SSMU, on campus, and in the greater Montreal community; and
- g) review and make recommendations to the Black Affairs Committee's terms of reference at the end of the year.

15.4 Membership: The Black Affairs Committee will consist of the following membership:

1. the Black Affairs Commissioner (Committee Chair, non-voting);
2. the Vice-President (External Affairs, non-voting);
3. the Vice-President (University Affairs, non-voting);
4. one (1) Councillor;
5. at least one (1) representative from every interested Black student group, as determined by the Black Affairs Commissioner; and
6. six (6) Members-at-Large.

15.4.1 Alterations to the Membership: The Black Affairs Committee may alter its composition at its discretion in order to fulfil its mandate to represent and engage with Black students and student groups.

15.4.2. Appointment Guidelines for Members at Large:

- a) Black student groups will be responsible for selecting their representatives through their own internal processes.
- b) Members at Large will serve for fixed terms of one year, after which they may be invited to retain their position at the discretion of the Black Affairs Commissioner.
- c) If any of the six (6) seats dedicated to Members at Large become vacant, Members will have the opportunity to apply to serve on the Black Affairs Committee at the beginning of the Fall term.
- d) The Black Affairs Commissioner will be responsible for appointing such applicants based on criteria set by the Committee before the end of the Winter term.

15.5 Meetings: The Black Affairs Committee will meet biweekly unless an exception is made by the Black Affairs Commissioner.

15.6 Quorum: Quorum for meetings of the Black Affairs Committee will be a simple majority of its members.

15.7 Reporting: The Black Affairs Committee will report to the Legislative Council and to the Board of Directors once per semester.