



MOTION REGARDING VICE-PRESIDENT (SUSTAINABILITY AND OPERATIONS) POSITION

Submitted for: 2021-01-14

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2021-01-14-004

Moved by: Chip Smith
Arts Councillor **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL
 APPROVED
 POSTPONED
 COMMITTED
 NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Addy Parsons
Senate Caucus Representative

Issue

Following the Judicial Board's decision in *Miller v. SSMU [2020-09-02]* (and the subsequent failure of the 2020 Special Referendum), the position of Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) has been reinstated¹. In recent years, the position has not been elected and the portfolio has been divided among the other Executives. The position was removed from the SSMU Constitution, during previous revisions of 2020-03-27. While a motion was passed at the Legislative Council meeting of 2019-02-07, which suspended elections for the position, the motion is no longer in effect².

Background and Rationale

One of the positions currently listed in SSMU Constitution is the Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations)³. The Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) is responsible for overseeing the development and use of the University Centre, overseeing the management of the Society's business operations, and to operationalise the Society's commitment to environmental sustainability and physical accessibility. The Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) was also a de-facto member of the Board of Directors⁴.

¹ [Miller v SSMU \(2020\) Final Decision](#)

² [Motion Regarding Vice-President \(Operations\) Position \(2019-02-07\)](#)

³ [The Constitution of the Students' Society of McGill University, \(2017\), s 10.16.](#)

⁴ [The Constitution of the Students' Society of McGill University, \(2017\), s. 6.2.](#)



Due to a multitude of different factors (including the closure of the University Centre between 2018-2020), the decision was taken not to elect a Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations). During the 2018-2019 academic year, the Legislative Council passed a motion which suspended elections for the position⁵. In 2019-2020, the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee (CGRC) recommended the removal of the position, from the SSMU Constitution, which was originally approved, by the Society's membership.

Following the Judicial Board's decision in *Miller v. SSMU [2020-09-02]* and the failure of the 2020 Special Referendum, the previous version of the SSMU Constitution listing the Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) position has been reinstated. Furthermore, the motion passed at the 2019-02-07 Legislative Council is no longer in effect.

Alignment with Mission

Fair representation is one of the core missions of the SSMU. Our membership deserves effective representation by those they elect to serve. Simply electing someone to a position, which has been vacant for years and no longer needed, is not the best way to represent our membership. Without any recent institutional memory and the need to reconstitute the portfolio, any incoming Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) will not be able to effectively represent members of the society.

Consultations Completed

In drafting this motion, consultations were completed with the Governing Documents Researcher, the Governance Manager, Elections SSMU, and the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee (CGRC).

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

If this motion is not approved, Elections SSMU would be required to run an election for the position of Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) for the 2021-2022 academic year; a position which has been vacant for the past few years, in the upcoming revisions to the constitution. As well, the portfolio (which has been divided among the other Executives and permanent staff) would need to be reconstituted, by the current and incoming Executives.

⁵ [Motion Regarding Vice-President \(Operations\) Position \(2019-02-07\)](#)



Sustainability Considerations

At this time, there are no sustainability considerations.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion be approved, the decision would be communicated to Elections SSMU, ahead of the nomination period for the 2021 SSMU Executive Elections. The decision would also be communicated to the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee (CGRC), by the Speaker.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it Resolved, that the SSMU Legislative Council acknowledge that the Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) position will not be elected for the 2021-2022 academic year, with the expectation that the position will be eliminated in future revisions to the SSMU Constitution.

Results of the Vote

In favour ()
Opposed ()
Abstain ()