



# MOTION REGARDING THE CREATION OF THE GENDER AND SEXUALITY ADVOCACY COMMITTEE 2021-01-11

Submitted for: 2021-02-11

**Submitted to:** SSMU Legislative Council      **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2021-02-11-002

**Moved by:** Brooklyn Frizzle  
Vice-President (University Affairs)      **Current Status:**  FOR APPROVAL  
 APPROVED  
 POSTPONED  
 COMMITTED  
 NOT APPROVED

**Seconded by:** Noah Merali  
Services Representative

**Issue**      In light of the recent creation of a Gender and Sexuality Commissionership, this motion seeks to create a Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee as a standing Committee of the Legislative Council.

---

**Background and Rationale**      As part of an ongoing effort of the SSMU Executive to build capacity for institutional advocacy, the Gender and Sexuality Commissionership was established in collaboration with Queer McGill and the Union for Gender Empowerment.

The Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee, chaired by the Gender and Sexuality Commissioner, is intended to act as a forum to unite and coordinate the efforts of Queer student groups on campus. The Committee would serve to bolster the institutional capacity of groups like Queer McGill and the Union for Gender Empowerment.

---

**Alignment with Mission**      This motion is in line with the SSMU's commitment to groups, programs, and activities that are devoted to the well-being of a group disadvantaged because of irrelevant personal characteristics, as stipulated in the Leadership pillar of the Constitution.



This motion is further in line with SSMU’s mandate to promote a functional, anti-oppressive environment through, as defined by **Article 1 – Interpretation** of the Equity Policy, and all subsections thereof.

---

### Consultations Completed

This motion and the Committee herein are the products of extensive collaboration and consultation between the SSMU the Vice-President (University Affairs), Queer McGill, and the Union for Gender Empowerment.

---

### Risk Factors and Resource Implications

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

---

### Sustainability Considerations

This motion and the proposed Committee 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 Gender and Sexuality Commissioner will be notified of the results. The Commissioner will be responsible for assembling the representatives to the Committee and preparing the Member-at-Large application process.

The Gender and Sexuality Commissioner will receive training from Queer McGill, the Union for Gender Empowerment, the Vice-President (External Affairs), and the Vice-President (University Affairs) on institutional advocacy and Committee Chairship.

The first responsibility of the Gender and Sexuality Commissioner, as Chair of the Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee, will be to prepare a referendum question to levy a Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Fee, used to establish a Gender and Sexuality Department. The establishment of a

---



Gender and Sexuality Department will then mark the autonomy of the Gender and Sexuality Commissioner and Committee.

Should this motion be approved, the Governance Manager will update the Committee Terms of Reference book accordingly.

---

**Motion or  
Resolution for  
Approval**

*Be it resolved, that the Gender and Sexuality Advocacy 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.*

---

**Results of the  
Vote**

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()



## Appendix A : Terms of Reference

### COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

#### 16. Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee

**16.1 Oversight:** The Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee will be a committee of the Legislative Council.

**16.2 General:** The Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee will confront historical and ongoing inequities at the University through institutional advocacy in governance and policy, and active engagement and public education, in a manner consistent with the Society's relevant policies.

##### 16.2.1 Mandate:

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

**16.3 Responsibilities:** The Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee will:

- a) foster an understanding of Queer equity as an active process through which individuals, institutions and cultures recognize historical and current bias and oppression;
  - i) deconstruct this bias and oppression;
  - ii) take proactive steps to challenge the actions, attitudes and assumptions that contribute to these systems;
- b) advise the SSMU, its Governing Bodies, and Staff on issues pertaining to Queer students;
- c) advocate for and advance matters concerning Queer students on campus by:
  - i) connecting and facilitating cooperation between the Society, all members of the Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee;
  - ii) soliciting student feedback regarding the Society's role in improving Queer student life at McGill;



- iii) monitoring the Society's compliance with its Policies and Plans as related to Gender and Sexuality; and
- iv) identifying and making policy and institutional recommendations to address broader issues affecting Queer communities on campus, in the Montreal community, and in Canada.
- d) identify and provide guidance to address Queer student issues within SSMU, on campus, and in the greater Montreal community; and
- e) review and make recommendations to the Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee's terms of reference at the end of the year.

**16.4 Membership:** The Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee will consist of the following membership:

1. the Gender and Sexuality Commissioner (Committee Chair, non-voting);
2. the Vice-President (External Affairs, non-voting);
3. the Vice-President (University Affairs, non-voting);
4. one (1) Legislative Councillor;
5. at least one (1) representative from every interested Queer student group, as determined by the Gender and Sexuality Commissioner; and
6. no fewer than three (3) Members-at-Large.

**15.4.1 Alterations to the Membership:** The Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee may alter its composition at its discretion in order to fulfil its mandate.

**15.4.2. Appointment Guidelines for Members at Large:**

- a) Queer 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 Gender and Sexuality Commissioner.
- c) Members will have the opportunity to apply to serve on the Gender and Sexuality Commissioner at the beginning of the Fall term.
- d) The Gender and Sexuality 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 Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee will meet biweekly unless an exception is made by the Gender and Sexuality Commissioner.

**15.6 Quorum:** Quorum for meetings of the Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee will be a simple majority of voting members. Quorum can only be reached if either the Vice-President (External Affairs), Vice-President (University Affairs), and/or Gender and Sexuality Commissioner is present at the meeting.



6.6.1. Quorum will only be necessary to perform formal governance duties of the Committee. Should the Committee fail to reach quorum, the Gender and Sexuality Commissioner may choose to entertain a meeting, regardless.

**15.7 Reporting:** The Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee will report to the Legislative Council once per semester.

APPROVED