



MOTION REGARDING CAMPUS OUTAOUAIS REPRESENTATION AT THE SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL 2021-09-23

Submitted for: 2021-09-30

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-NOM-2021-09-23-001

Moved by: Benson Wan
Medicine Representative **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL
 APPROVED
 POSTPONED
 COMMITTED
 NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Claire Downie
VP University Affairs

Issue This motion seeks to put forward an amendment to the constitution to add a seat to the Legislative Council to represent students located at the Outaouais campus.

Background and Rationale In August 2020, McGill University opened a new satellite campus for its Faculty of Medicine in the Outaouais (Campus Outaouais), and welcomed two new cohorts of students: 24 in the first year of the McGill Undergraduate Medical Education (MDCM) Program, and 16 more entering the McGill Medicine Preparatory (MED-P) Program, the latter in partnership with the Université du Québec en Outaouais (UQO). The MDCM Program in Campus Outaouais is expected to grow by 24 students annually over the next 3 years, for a total of 96 students in the 4-year program. The language of instruction for both MDCM and MED-P programs in Campus Outaouais is French.

As members of the SSMU (in accordance with Article 5 of the SSMU Constitution), students enrolled at Campus Outaouais face unique challenges in accessing Clubs, Services, Independent Student Groups, the SSMU Health and Dental plan, and other resources offered by the Society, due to factors of distance (200 km between Campus Outaouais and the main McGill campus) and language (French versus English). At this moment, students in Campus Outaouais elect representatives who sit in the General Council of the Medical Students' Society of McGill University (faculty-level



student association), namely a class council composed of a class president and class vice-president, as well as a Gatineau representative to communicate between both campuses at the faculty level. Representation to the SSMU Legislative Council is currently via the Medicine Representative, who statistically is selected from among an English-speaking, Montreal-based constituency and also sits on the MSS General Council. Given the particular demographic composition of students in Campus Outaouais, they would benefit from direct representation to the SSMU Legislative Council.

This motion had been submitted to Legislative Council in October 2020, however, upon recommendation from the GDR it was withdrawn prior to the Legislative Council meeting. This motion was sent to the Governing Documents researcher for review on October 13, 2020, and formally submitted to the CGRC on February 7, 2021 for review and approval by the Office of the DPSLL. In May 2021, the MSS ran their elections and added a “University Representative” position open to students at Campus Outaouais, with a key part of this position’s portfolio being to represent their students at Legislative Council. However, despite this motion having been presented nearly a year prior, the changes to the constitution have yet to be made, and the student elected for this position currently does not have a voting seat at Legislative Council. As such, there is added urgency to this motion as students at Campus Outaouais currently are not adequately represented; thus such a position should be created with haste.

Alignment with Mission

According to the preamble to the SSMU constitution, the Society shall endeavor to facilitate communication and interaction between all students from all McGill communities, serve as a central focal point for McGill students, and provide a variety of services to its different constituencies. The Society shall strive to provide excellence and quality of service at all times, and shall continue to enhance the quality and scope of these services. In addition, The SSMU is committed to demonstrating leadership in all of its endeavours without discrimination on the basis of language, as well as Representation of and Service for its Members that come from different constituencies, which can include language constituencies.

Adoption of this motion will not only establish direct representation to the Society from a distinct undergraduate student population, but also strengthen the Society’s commitment to accessibility in both official languages of the Society.



The SSMU constitution also specifies that both English and French are the official languages of the Society (Article 19).

Overview of Proposed Amendments

Changes to Composition (Section 8.2)

The proposed amendments make a change in section 8.2 of the SSMU constitution (see Appendix A). An additional seat representing students enrolled at the Outaouais campus shall be added to the Legislative Council. Said student must be enrolled the Gatineau campus in either the MDCM program of the Faculty of Medicine, or the Med-P program of the Faculty of Science.

Consultations Completed

Consulted with SSMU-MCSS Senate Caucus, the CGRC, several councilors from the 2020-2021 year, current MSS students and MSS alumni.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

There is no foreseeable increase in costs or burden in human resources to this action, as long as remote accessibility to the SSMU Legislative Council and associated committees are maintained. Indirect costs may include French translation services for the SSMU website, email communications, and governance documents, although these are in part already being undertaken through other mandates.

Sustainability Considerations

As the number of undergraduate students enrolled at Campus Outaouais grows in an expected significant manner over the next 3 years, establishing a dedicated SSMU representative at this stage would allow for better integration of this position into the rapidly evolving local student governance structure, both present and future. In addition, sustainability initiatives and principles as per the SSMU Sustainability Plan may be better communicated at the local level with the presence of a direct representative.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

A Campus Outaouais representative to the SSMU Legislative Council shall be selected in accordance with the procedures set out by that constituency, starting mid-term during the 2021-2022 academic year.



Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved, that the Students' Society of McGill University Legislative Council approve the following question for the Fall 2021 Referendum period:

“Do you agree to the amendment to the Constitution of the Students' Society of McGill University as outlined in Appendix A?”

Where Appendix A is a copy of Article 8.2 of the SSMU Constitution with all additions highlighted in yellow.

Be it further resolved, that this motion and the relevant Appendix be included alongside the question for Referendum.

Results of the Vote

In favour	()
Opposed	()
Abstain	()



Appendix A : Overview of Proposed Amendments

8. Legislative Council

[...]

8.2 Composition

The Legislative Council shall be composed of:

- a. one (1) Councillor appointed for every two thousand (2000) students or part thereof by the following faculties or schools in accordance with the procedures set out by that constituency. If that school is not already represented by a faculty-level student association, for every two thousand (2000) students or part thereof to a maximum of four (4) Councillors in accordance with the procedures set out by that constituency:
 - i. Faculty of Arts;
 - ii. School of Social Work;
 - iii. Faculty of Dentistry;
 - iv. Faculty of Education;
 - v. Faculty of Engineering;
 - vi. Faculty of Law;
 - vii. Desautels Faculty of Management;
 - viii. Faculty of Medicine;
 - ix. Ingram School of Nursing;
 - x. School of Physical & Occupational Therapy;
 - xi. Schulich School of Music;
 - xii. Faculty of Science;
 - xiii. Interfaculty of Arts and Science; and
 - xiv. School of Religious Studies to represent and be nominated by students registered in the Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.);
- a. two (2) Councillors appointed by the Society's Clubs in accordance with the Internal Regulations;
- b. one (1) Councillor appointed by the Society's Services in accordance with the Internal Regulations;
- c. one (1) Councillors appointed by the undergraduate student members of the Senate, excluding the President and Vice-President (University Affairs);
- d. one (1) Councillor appointed by the Students' Athletics Council in accordance with the procedures set out by that constituency;
- e. one (1) Councillor from the SSMU First Year Council in accordance with the procedures set out by that constituency;
- f. one (1) Councillor from the SSMU Indigenous Affairs Committee in accordance with the procedures set out by that constituency.
- g. one (1) Councillor from among the SSMU Equity Committee in accordance with the procedures set out by that constituency.
- h. one (1) Councillor from among the SSMU Francophone Affairs Committee in accordance with the procedures set out by that constituency.



- i. one (1) Councillor representing the Macdonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS) in accordance with the procedures set out by that constituency, and who shall not have the right to vote.
- j. one (1) Councillor representing students enrolled at *Campus Outaouais* in one of the following programs: (i) MDCM program of the Faculty of Medicine; or (ii) Med-P (Preparatory Program) of the Faculty of Science in accordance with the procedures set out by that constituency.