



SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

September 23, 2021

The regular bi-weekly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference, on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 18:00.

1. Speaker and Parliamentarian introductions

The SSMU Speaker and Parliamentarian introduce themselves to the Legislative Council (Council) members and members of the gallery.

2. Call to Order: **18:06**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:06 on September 23, 2021.

3. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

4. Attendance

a. Introductions

When calling on each Councillor for attendance, the Speaker asks each Councillor to introduce themselves, indicate their preferred pronouns if they choose to do so, and a fun fact about them.

The Arts Representatives confirm that Councillor Ford has stepped down from their role, as such, they are no longer a Council member.

Councillor Wan is absent; Councillor's proxy is present at the meeting.

The Speaker indicates that Councillors Yu, Eiley, Cayard, and the President are also absent.

5. Adoption of the Agenda --**ADOPTED**

VP External Affairs motions to adopt the agenda, seconded by VP Student Life.

The Agenda is adopted.



6. Welcome Remarks (SSMU President) --**POSTPONED**

This item is postponed as the President is absent.

7. Report of the Steering Committee (3)

The Speaker presents the Report of the Steering Committee. The report of the Steering Committee is very brief as this is the first Council meeting of the year.

The Governance Manager raises a point to the Speaker that there is a new Athletics Representative present today and offers them to introduce themselves. The Speaker asks the new Athletics Representative to introduce themselves. The Athletics Representative Djossou presents themselves.

The Speaker returns back to the Report. The Speaker states that the Governance Manager, the Speaker, the President, and the Parliamentarian were present at the Steering Committee. It is also mentioned that the committee will be joined by two Council members next week. These members will be nominated today. The Speaker indicates that for Fall 2021 semester, all the Council meetings will be held through Zoom; he also reminds the attendees to keep their microphones off during the meetings. The Speaker mentions that it is acceptable to keep cameras off.

The Speaker explains how to take part in a debate: the Parliamentarian creates a Speaking List, and members will have access to the Speaking List, and they can write your name there to participate in the debate. However, non-council members do not have access to the list. If Members of the Gallery, who are non-Council members, who wish to participate, they can use the "Raise Hand" feature on Zoom or send a message to the Speaker.

Question:

VP External Affairs asks the Speaker to clarify if the members need to simply add their names to the list, or if they also need to raise their hands to speak.

Answer:

The Parliamentarian clarifies by saying that members of the Council need to add their name to the Speaking list, while non-members need to raise their hands through Zoom. The Speaker also indicates that while someone speaks during the debate, the time will be recorded for each person's speaking time. Everyone will be given a limited amount of speaking time. The Speaker will be making two taps when a Speaker has 30 seconds left and a lot of taps when the time is up.



The Speaker moves to the Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Standing Rules 2021-2022 for Legislative Council. The Speaker calls the seconder Councillor Holton to present the motion as the President, who drafted this motion, is not present.

There are no further questions or discussion on the Report of the Steering Committee.

- a. Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Standing Rules 2021-2022 for Legislative Council 2021-09-23 --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Councillor Holton motivates and states that the motion is to approve the Standing Rules for meetings for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Councillor Holton notes that his motion seeks to adopt the standing rules for the 2021-2022 SSMU Legislative Council. The standing rules are mechanisms by which we can fine-tune, for Robert's Rules of Order, for any given group during the year, such as the group of the SSMU Legislative Council and to ensure that meetings run smoothly.

The consultations were held with the Parliamentarian, Governance Manager and the former Speaker On-Call, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator and the President. Some of the risk factors include, the standing rules are necessary to conduct SSMU meetings, the rules also include the deadlines for submissions of motions and reports in order to ensure accountability on the council. It took into consideration the sustainability of the year long operations and regular Governance meetings with the goal of efficiency and respectability towards all those involved in these meetings.

Councillor Holton says that they also took into consideration the sustainability of yearlong operations in regular governance meetings, with the goal of efficiency and respectability towards everyone involved in these meetings. If this motion is approved, the standing rules will be adopted into a parliamentary procedure. If the motion fails, there will be a lack of decorum in the Legislative council this year. The motion we put forward to be resolved that the Society's Legislative Council 2021-2022 adopt the standing rules and the Appendix A to maximise the efficiency of Council meetings.

Councillor Holton explains the issue at hand: this motion seeks to adopt the standing rules for the 2021-2022 SSMU Legislative Council. Councillor states that the rationale here is to order Robert's rules, and give a general framework for efficient group meetings. The standing rules are mechanisms by which we can find tune - for Robert's rules - for any given group during the year such as the group of the SSMU Legislative Council.

We've completed the consultations with the Parliamentarian, Governance Manager and Speaker on call, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator and the SSMU President. Councillor Holton goes over the risk factors: the standing rules are necessary to conduct SSMU meetings, the rules also include the deadlines for submissions of motions and reports in order to ensure accountability on the council. We



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Question Period:

VP Downie asks a question out of order whether Councillor Wan's email regarding the amendments was received by the Speaker and the Parliamentarian.

The Parliamentarian states that the amendments were added at the end of the document. The Speaker believes the amendment was received. The Speaker confirms that the amendments were added at the end of the document in yellow. Councillor Wan has presented these amendments, for them to be completely added, we will need a second and they will need to be voted upon. The Speaker adds that if Councillor Wan's proxy would like to present them, they can do so, and if not the Speaker will go over them. The proxy suggests that Councillor Wan be present during the discussion as he is not fully aware of Councillor's standing regarding the amendments. The Speaker notes in the affirmative and gives the Council time to look through the amendment.

The Speaker asks if there are any seconders for the amendments. VP Internal Affairs is seconding the amendment. VP Internal Affairs asks if this is a friendly amendment and if it was approved by Councillor Holton.

Councillor Holton states that this was not discussed and he did not receive any notifications regarding the amendments. However, Councillor Holton just read them over and is supportive of these amendments.

The Speaker states that if the amendments are friendly, we can simply leave them where they are and include them within the whole motion. Councillor Holton agrees.

The Speaker inquires if there were any other questions, and seeing none, the Speaker indicated that the council will now be entering the debate with the one minute speaking time.

The Speaker asks the attendees to raise their hand to debate this motion.

There is no debate, the Speaker proceeds to the voting period.



The Governance Manager asks the Speaker to explain the voting process. The Speaker explains that a voting form will be opened, and asks the Governance Manager to explain where the form can be found. The Governance Manager says that to find the form one needs to go to the Legislative Council folder for this session “2021-09-23”, and look for a form that is called “Councillor Voting Directions”, in that document the first motion regarding adoption of the standing rules can be found. Once the Speaker announces the opening of the voting period, the Councillors will have access to the form.

Seeing that there is no debate, the Speaker proceeds into the voting directly.

The Speaker asks everyone to go to the “Councillor Voting Directions” and open up the Google form.

The Speaker clarifies that the amendment was added to the motion since the second for the amendment has agreed.

The Speaker allows a minute for everyone to place their votes. The Speaker gives 30 more seconds to vote as only 15 people have voted.

Councillor Holton was not able to log in to their account to vote. Councillor Sedami-Habib Djossou apologises and let’s the Speaker know that they might leave the meeting due to personal reasons. The Speaker says that in this case, the Councillor will be able to go over the minutes.

The Speaker confirms if Councillor Holton has voted. The Councillor was not able to vote. The Speaker asks the Councillor to make sure to be logged in their account the next time.

The Speaker closes the voting period and asks the Governance Manager to share the access to the results. The Governance Manager shares the access.

The Speaker announces that this motion was passed unanimously.

The Speaker moves to the general discussion on the topic of Meetings and Scheduling of Legislative Council Meetings.

8. Generative Discussion

a. Meetings and Scheduling of Legislative Council Meetings --**POSTPONED**

The Speaker indicates that the speaking time is one minute. Seeing no Speakers for this generative discussion, the Speaker moves to the next item on the agenda.

9. Announcements



The Speaker states that currently there are no announcements and inquiries if there are any last minute announcements.

The Speaker proceeds to the Question Period.

10. Question Period

The Speaker notes that since we have already had a question period for the previous motion, we will be moving to 5-minute recess.

11. Recess, Consent Items

The Governance Manager confirms if the Council is in the Recess and Consent Items. The Speaker confirms. The Speaker adds that he was informed that maybe there are some people who have some announcements for the Council, so the Council will return to that after the 5 minute recess.

The Governance Manager mentions to the Speaker that for the Recess and Consent items, the Consent form will need to be open, and asks the Speaker to explain what the consent items are.

The Speaker asks the Governance Manager to open the Consent form.

The Governance Manager opens the consent form and announces that if anyone has questions regarding what a consent item is, they should use their “raise hand” feature and the Governance Manager or the Speaker will be happy to answer.

The Speaker states that on the Consent form one can vote to consent for the item without further debate. And if anyone votes “debate”, then a debate will be opened on the item. The Speaker adds that since the items are uncontroversial, they are added to the Consent form.

Question:

Councillor Djossou asks where the consent form can be found.

Answer:

The Speaker responds that it can be found on the same document that has the links for the Voting forms.

Question:

Councillor Tiniacos clarifies with the Speaker if the Question period is meant to open the floor for any questions rather than questions pertaining to a specific motion.



Answer:

The Speaker apologises and states that any questions could be posed at the Question Period. The Speaker adds that he will be returning to the agenda Item 9 and 10 after the recess.

The Speaker announces that the recess is over and asks to use the “raise hand” feature to check the attendance. The Speaker waits for an additional 30 seconds so that all the attendees can come back to the meeting.

The Speaker resumes the meeting.

The Speaker advises the attendees to check the chat or the beginning of their Voting form for the link to the Consent form. The Speaker reminds everyone that the consent items can be voted “consent” or “debate”; if there is at least one “debate” vote for an item, the item will be debated.

The Speaker gives additional 30 seconds to vote. The Speaker closes the voting on consent items.

The Speaker announces that the Motion Regarding Elections and Referenda Timeline has been approved by consent.

The Speaker announces that the council will come back to the Motion Regarding the Open Letter during the debate. The Speaker asks the Parliamentarian or the Governance Manager to add this to the agenda.

The Speaker backtracks to the agenda item number 9 and inquires if anyone has any announcements to make.

VP Internal Affairs makes an announcement on behalf of the Communications team at SSMU. VP Internal Affairs notes that everyone should have received a waiver from Communications Coordinator and some have not filled out the form yet. The VP explains that this is a waiver form for consent for any pictures or videos that might be taken at the Legislative Council or published online. VP Internal Affairs urges those who have not filled out the form, to do so, and if anyone has questions, they can reach out to herself or to the Communications Coordinator.

The Speaker inquires if anyone else has an announcement to make. Since no one has, the Speaker moves to the question period.

Question:



Councillor Tiniacos asks a question about the protest that SSMU has scheduled regarding the Royal Victoria Hospital project. The Councillor says that in the statement that the SSMU has written, it states that the students were not consulted; however, members of the Science Undergraduate Society (SUS) executive team were part of these consultations. The Councillor adds that current VP Academic and former SUS President were a part of the consultation. He also adds that the SSMU President, AUS President and the EUS President were asked to be a part of these meetings but they did not attend. Departments were going to be asked, even the Faculty of Science met to receive feedback from the different student associations. Videos about the projects were shared in the Dean's students' newsletter and emails were sent to all the students about a Town hall that happened on August 31st at 11 AM with a two weeks' notice. So the Councillor's question is: What does it mean that the students were not consulted?

Answer:

VP External Affairs replies that there was a serious lack of student consultation. VP outlines that when it comes to the New Royal Victoria Hospital Project, which was born in 2016, there was a Principal's Taskforce set up to do local community consultations regarding the project. However, this task force did not turn out anything. The McGill organizers of the New Royal Victoria Hospital Project did not provide a summary of the taskforce. They [the McGill organizers] also did not know what positions SSMU representatives on the task force held. VP External Affairs says that when the representatives of the New Royal Victoria Hospital Project were asked for a summary of what their consultations yielded (to see if they were realistic or not), the representatives were not capable of providing such a summary. VP External Affairs finds this disappointing. Regarding the town hall on August 31st, VP External Affairs and the staff members of the External Affairs portfolio believe that the town hall was done for "show" after the McGill Administration was pressured to involve students in the consultation process. VP External Affairs would also like to outline that it was noted to them that the consultation process does not necessarily have to go through students, and that McGill University was going to move forward with their project plans and all that they needed was to get an approval from the Board of Governors. Other than the Town Hall student consultation, prior to the submission of their masterplan to the Board of Governors and afterwards the SQI, had not been completed. VP External Affairs wraps up by saying this is what was disappointing and referred to as lack of student consultation.

The Speaker opens the floor to any other questions.

Question:

Councillor Saad asks if this is the time to ask questions or discuss the consent items that are put forward for debate.



Answer:

The Speaker responds that the consent items will have their own time in “New Business”, and we will be discussing them as motions.

The Speaker inquires if there are any other questions. Seeing none, the Speaker moves on to item 12.

12. New Business

- a. Notice of Motion Regarding Campus Outaouais Representation at the SSMU Legislative Council 2021-09-23

The Speaker states that first and foremost, we will be entertaining a Motion Regarding Campus Outaouais Representation at the SSMU Legislative Council 2021-09-23. The Speaker asks the proxy of the mover of this motion or the second to present the motion.

The Proxy for Councillor Wan states that this is just a notion of the motion that Councillor Wan was going to present at the next meeting when he will be able to be here. The Proxy states that the thought behind the motion is to have a representative from the SSMU on the new campus for the faculty of Medicine in Gatineau in order to better defend the interests of the students’ on that campus. Mostly because of the difference in language of instruction and also the distance from the other campus in downtown.

The Speaker states that since this is just a Notice, there will not be any debate or question period during this meeting. This will be debated, questioned and voted upon at the next meeting.

The Speaker moves to the next item in the agenda 12.b the Motion Regarding Legislative Council Committee Allocations.

- b. Motion Regarding Legislative Council Committee Allocations 2021-09-23 --
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

The Speaker asks Councillor Saad to present the motion as The President is not present.

Councillor Saad states that this motion is meant for the Legislative Council to approve different allocations that are in the Appendix A. Councillor Saad says that when he agreed to second this motion, there weren’t any allocations there. Thus the Councillor invites the corresponding Councillors to check out which committees they were assigned to, just to make sure that everything looks good, and that there aren’t any mistakes.



Councillor Saad reminds that every Councillor needs to be assigned at least one committee. Councillor Saad says that he is not sure whether the President was hoping that all the allocations would be full by now so we could vote on them, or if he just wanted us to vote on the committees that have already been assigned.

The Speaker states that the names in yellow are the names that were sent to the Governance Manager and himself as individuals who wanted to join those committees. There are some committees with one spot that have a couple of Councillors who want to join them. The Speaker states that this is something to be debated and voted upon.

The Speaker states that he will be going through all committees one by one, asking if anyone wants to join the committee. If more people want to join than there are seats, then the Councillors interested in the seat will present their reasoning and it will be voted upon. The Speaker adds that if a name is added in yellow, the same rules apply.

The Speaker begins with the Accessibility committee, he asks those interested in being on that committee to raise their hand.

The Speaker advises all the Councillors where a little cheat sheet for all the committees can be found, on that document all the relevant information pertaining to the committee can be found.

The Speaker moves to the Affordable Student Housing Committee. Councillor Pelletier is interested in this committee. The Councillor inquires if he needs to give any reasoning for his interest. The Speaker indicates that this will only be necessary if there is a competition for this committee. Councillor Coussa is also interested in joining this committee.

The Speaker gives a minute and a half to all the attendees to take a look at the list of all the committees and familiarise themselves with them.

VP Internal Affairs adds that if the attendees want to know what all those committees do, they can find this information on the SSMU page.

The Speaker confirms with the Councillor Khodadadi if she still wishes to be in the Accessibility Committee. Councillor confirms in the affirmative.

Question:

Councillor Holton asks for a clarification why a committee would meet weekly; especially considering the fact that there is only one seat at that committee which indicates that the workload is heavier.

Answer:



The Speaker is not certain. VP External Affairs says that even though he cannot answer specifically regarding the Environment Committee, he believes it is related to the compositions' of committees. The number of seats for Councillors and members at large and relevant stakeholders affect the workload. VP External Affairs says that maybe there are more members at large so the committee needs to meet more often.

Question:

Councillor Cousa inquires if Councillors can be on more than one committee.

Answer:

The Speaker responds that each councillor needs to sit on a minimum of one (1) committee and that there is no maximum.

The Speaker moves to the Black Affairs committee. No Councillors are assigned at this time.

The Speaker moves to the Building and Operations Management Committee. No Councillors are assigned at this time.

The Speaker moves to the Clubs committee. No Councillors are assigned at this time.

The Speaker moves to the Community Engagement committee. No Councillors are assigned at this time.

The Speaker moves to the Comprehensive Governance Review. The Speaker confirms if Councillor Liao still wishes to be on the committee. Councillor Liao confirms in the affirmative.

The Speaker moves to the Environment Committee, and inquires if Councillor Holton still wishes to be on the committee. Councillor Holton confirms. The Speaker asks if anyone else is interested in joining this committee. No other Councillors are assigned at this time.

The Speaker moves to the Equity Committee. The Speaker asks if Councillor Javed still wishes to be on this committee. Councillor Javed confirms. The Speaker asks the same question to Councillor Zhang. Councillor moves her preference to the SSAMMOSA Committee. The Speaker confirms that the Parliamentarian is moving the Councillor's preference.

The Speaker moves to the Finance Committee and confirms if Councillor Ford still wishes to be a part of the committee. Councillor Ford has stepped down, so the candidature was removed. The Speaker asks if anyone else wishes to be on the committee. Councillor Qazi is interested. Councillor Kugelmass



is also interested. The Speaker asks if anyone else is interested. Seeing no one else, the Speaker moves to the next committee.

The Speaker moves to the Comité des Affaires Francophones. Councillor Desrochers is still interested. Councillor Coussa is also interested. Councillor Coussa would like to take her name out of the Affordable Housing Committee and moved to this Committee. The Speaker confirms that this was done.

The Speaker moves to the Funding Committee and inquires if anyone wishes to be added. No other Councillors are assigned at this time.

The Speaker moves to the Indigenous Affairs Committee and inquires if anyone wishes to be added. Councillor Saad wishes to be added.

The Speaker moves to the Library Improvement Fund Committee and inquires if anyone wishes to be added. No Councillors are assigned at this time.

The Speaker moves to the Mental Health Committee and inquires if Councillor Khamis still wishes to be added. Councillor Khamis confirms. The Speaker confirms that Councillor Saad still wants to be added. Councillor confirms. The Speaker confirms if Councillor Gurung still wishes to be added. The Councillor is still interested. The Speaker confirms if Councillor Bellia still wants to be added. The Councillor confirms.

The Speaker moves to the Steering Committee. Councillor Javed wishes to join the committee. The Speaker asks if anyone else wants to be added. Councillor Coussa would like to be added to the committee.

The Speaker moves to the Student Society Programming Network Committee. Councillor Tiniacos wishes to be added to this committee.

The Speaker moves to the Student's Society of McGill for maintaining operations and strategic advancement, also known as SAMOSA. Councillor Zhang still wants to be added. The Speaker asks if anyone else wants to be added. Seeing none.

The Speaker confirms that the list of Committees has been exhausted.

The Speaker indicates that the only point of contention is the Mental Health Committee.

Before entering a debate, the Speaker confirms if every Councillor present at this meeting was assigned a committee.



Question:

Councillor Djossou says that he did not put his candidature forward as he was not able to read more about each committee due to his network issues. The Councillor also inquires if they can make a choice later after having read about the committees.

Answer:

The Speaker asks VPs to answer as the Speaker is not certain. The question was redirected to the Governance Manager. The Governance Manager replies by saying that this can be done. The Governance Manager asks the Councillor to send an email by the end of the next week, indicating which committee he would like to join.

The Speaker opens the debate on the Mental Health Committee. The Speaker states that every Councillor has one (1) minute of speaking time. Councillor Gurung rescinds her candidature.

Councillor Khamis opens the debate.

Councillor Khamis is from the Faculty of Science at McGill University. Councillor Khamis would like to be a part of this Committee due to the past experience in several mental health advocacy initiatives. The Councillor was also a president of the first year Undergraduate Science Society where they had a number of mental health initiatives for the first year students who have never been on campus. These were a large contributor to examining different mental health struggles of students in the undergraduate population at McGill. The Society worked towards meaningful initiatives both on social media and on our other resources to combat mental health struggles. The Councillor would like to contribute her competencies to the Mental Health committee. Councillor Khamis also presently reads the current policies and procedures related to mental health because the Councillor is in the process of helping the Science Senator with additional mental health resources. Finally, Councillor Khamis worked for an organization in Toronto called Brainspace for a couple of years. The organization aims to destigmatize the topic of mental health. This experience also motivates the Councillor to be on the committee. The Councillor promises to work as hard as possible to make it a better place.

Councillor Saad opens his speech by saying that everyone's mental health worsened a lot during the pandemic and it goes beyond school, it is about daily life. The Councillor underlines that he made mental health a core issue for his platform when he ran for the councillor position. Councillor Saad spoke to many management students and many of them opened up about their struggles, so the Councillor wants to put this on the forefront in his work in student government. He worked with the Jack.org McGill which is a student's advocacy group for students and college and university campuses. Councillor agrees with Councillor Khamis on the fact that there is a lot of work to be done on destigmatizing mental health. The Councillor believes that the student government is about caring for students and making sure that they have a good and healthy environment on the campus, and



Councillor Saad thinks that there is a lot of room for improvement. Thus, the Councillor would love to serve on this committee and looks forward to doing a lot of very needed work.

Councillor Bellia started off by saying that she was a student representative on the SSMU Mental Health Committee last year and would like to continue with the work this year. The Councillor also agrees with Councillor Saad's comments regarding the fact that mental health is a critical issue, especially this year. The project that the Councillor is interested to work on for this year is with the Organization called Greenhound Canada, who would like to do workshops with SSMU. Greenhound Canada is an organization that advocates for mental health and organizes community connectives and point of care workshops. This is the project that the Councillor would like to bring to life this year and to actually have an impact on the McGill community.

The Speaker indicates that the Legislative Council will now be voting on these Councillors. The Speaker advises the attendees that the Councillors in question are also allowed to vote. The Speaker says that the voting will be done through Zoom and the two Councillors with the highest numbers of votes will be joining the committee.

The Zoom poll was launched and the Speaker asked the Council members to vote.

The Speaker announces that the voting was closed and the two Councillors that will be joining the committee will be Councillor Khamis and Councillor Bellia.

The Speaker inquires if Councillor Saad would like to be added to any other committee. Councillor replies that he would like to serve on the Indigenous Affairs Committee only.

Councillor Gurung asks to be added to the Community Engagement committee. The Speaker confirms.

The Speaker tells the attendees that if they have any issues with the assigned committees, they can reach out to the Governance Manager via email.

The Speaker advises everyone to go to the voting form # 2 as the voting for the Motion Regarding Legislative Council Committee Allocations will be open next.

The Speaker indicates that the voting has closed and that this motion passed unanimously.

- c. Motion Regarding the Elections and Referenda Timeline 2021-2022 2021-09-23 --
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

The Speaker advises that the item 12.c will be skipped as it has been approved as a consent item.

- d. Motion Regarding Nominations to the Society's Board of Directors 2021-09-23 --
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED



The Speaker asks VP External Affairs or Councillor Coussa to take the floor.

VP External Affairs explains the motion. VP External Affairs indicates that the motion is really straightforward just like the nominations to the committees. The VP states that the highest governing body of the SSMU is the Board of Directors (Board) and the membership must be filled for vacancies. People who can serve on the Board are the Councillors, Executives and Representatives at large. VP states that currently all the executive positions have been filled except for one. Which is why VP External Affairs would like to nominate VP Internal Affairs, Sarah Paulin, to this position. VP External Affairs believes that VP Internal Affairs will make a great addition to the Board of Directors. VP External Affairs says that someone else needs to nominate themselves as a Councillor representative.

The Speaker announces that the Legislative Council will now be entering the Question Period.

The Speaker asks attendees to raise their hands if there are any questions.

Question:

Councillor Tiniacos would like to know if to nominate themselves to the Board, one has to be a Canadian Citizen.

Answer:

VP External Affairs confirms that that is correct and that according to the Constitution one has to be over 18 and a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident because SSMU holds a liquor license. This is why VP External Affairs also does not have a vote on the Board.

The Speaker asks the Governance Manager to clarify the previous motion.

The Governance Manager explains the next steps for the committee allocations. The Governance Manager says that the Speaker will be sending the contact information (Councillor's name and SSMU email address) to the Committee Chairs and the Commissionaires. So whichever committee Councillors will be sitting on, the Commissioners should get in touch with the Councillors once they receive this information, after the Councillor can start sitting on that committee. And if the Councillors do not hear from their committee, the Governance Manager asks the Councillors to let her know.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions Regarding Nominations to the Society's Board of Directors.



Question:

Councillor Javed states that everyone received an email about this motion a couple of weeks back and the Councillor would like to know why this has been brought back if it's been voted on via email. The Councillor wants to know if that was a different motion.

As the Speaker was not on the Council at that time, the Governance Manager is asked to clarify.

Answer:

The Governance Manager says that unfortunately the motion did not receive quorum when it was submitted over the summer. So the decision was taken to bring it back to Council and give an opportunity for a Councillor to be nominated to sit on the Board effective immediately.

Councillor Javed has a follow up question: how would a Councillor nominate themselves for this position.

The Speaker states that a Councillor would do so right after the question period, when they will be asked for nominations. And the Councillor will be added in the form as an amendment into the motion.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions. Seeing no other questions, the Speaker announces that he will now be entertaining nominations for the Councillors.

The Speaker asks everyone who wishes to be added to the Board of Directors to raise their hand.

The Speaker recognizes Councillor Javed and Councillor Coussa. Seeing no-one else, the Speaker asks to add Councillor Javed and Councillor Coussa in yellow into the motion.

Question:

The Proxy for Councillor Wan asks the Speaker if Councillor Wan still sits on the Board of Directors.

Answer:

The Speaker confirms that Councillor Wan still sits on the Board of Directors.



The Speaker announces that the Council will now be entertaining a two minute speech by Councillor Javed.

Councillor Javed makes an introduction. Councillor Javed is interested in running for the Board of Directors because they feel they can represent the Council as well as her constituents. The Councillor had an experience sitting on the Legislative Council of Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) last year. This is the first year at SSMU for Councillor Javed, but last year, the Councillor was involved at SSMU with the VP University Affairs. Councillor Javed has been sitting on the Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy Advisory Board since last year. Councillor Javed says that she has a lot of experience with different student groups on campus, as well working for Residence Life so she hears about student concerns and Councillor Javed believes she can bring these experiences to the Board.

The Speaker announces that Councillor Coussa has the floor.

Councillor Coussa believes that they will be an addition to the Board. Firstly, they were at the AUS Legislative Council last year and they are pretty familiar with Robert's Rules of Order and the Student Government overall. Also, Councillor Coussa shares that they sat on many committees, moreover, the Councillor is a francophone so she has the ability to speak and converse in French.

The Speaker announces that the Council will now be proceeding with the poll on Zoom.

The Speaker gives a minute to the Council to vote on their Councillor of choice. The Speaker states that the time is up and that the poll has ended.

The Speaker announces that Councillor Javed was selected for the Board of Directors.

The Speaker states that the vote on the motion regarding the nominations for the Society's Board of Directors will be next and advises the attendees to go to the voting form # 3. The Speaker confirms if everyone has access to the form.

The Speaker announces that the time has lapsed and the voting form is closed. The Speaker states that this motion has passed unanimously.

The Speaker reminds everyone to vote on the motions or send the Speaker a message, or to speak up if unable to vote by the time the Speaker closes the voting form. The Speaker says that there should be 22-23 votes, and as of now there are only 19, which means that there are some who are not voting. The Speaker says that if one wishes to vote but experiences technical difficulties, they can speak up and the timer will be paused for that person.

- e. Motion Regarding Adoption Of An Open Letter In Support Of The National Day For Truth And Reconciliation / Lettre Ouverte pour la Journée Nationale de la Vérité et de la Réconciliation 2021-09-23 -- **APPROVED**



Councillor Javed presents the motion due to the absence of the President. Councillor Javed notes that this motion is to stand in solidarity with Indigenous communities. September 30 is recognized as a national holiday and is also known as Orange Shirt Day, which is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day. Councillor Javed notes that the Open Letter calls on McGill University to support the demands: 1. Cancelling all classes on September 30, 2021 after 12:00PM. 2) intensify efforts full decolonization of the University, including safe spaces for Indigenous students, including more Indigenous peoples into University and faculty administration's structure by reviewing McGill's branding and promotional material in light of the fact it was constructed on traditional Kanien'kehá ka lands and that James McGill owned Indigenous Slaves. 3) Intensify efforts towards the "Indigenization" of the University. 4) Join the ceremony held at 12:00PM on September 30 and walk with an orange shirt to honor the victims and survivors of Residential Schools.

Question Period:

VP University Affairs inquires about this motion, as the Executive Committee was not aware that this will be presented to Council, and notes that the Indigenous Affairs Researcher at SSMU has been collaborating with the Communications Department to work on a statement. She further notes that the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner (IAC) was not consulted on this motion or open letter. VP University Affairs is concerned that the proper consultative steps were missed and that non-Indigenous voices may be speaking over Indigenous voices. She notes that she is not opposed to this, but wants to ensure that this is done with the right consultations.

Question:

VP External Affairs thanks Councillor Javed for motivating this motion. VP External Affairs asks what consultations were conducted as listed in the Motion, and what are the ongoing consultations with the Indigenous Solidarity Alliance (ISA)?

Answer:

Councillor Javed notes that the President would be the person to answer this question, as she was consulted late into this motion.

Question:

Councillor Saad agrees with the spirit of the motion, but would like to clarify on what the rebranding of McGill University would look like, noting that it is not for debate that James McGill owned slaves.

Answer:



Councillor Javed responds that the wording can be changed, and she would be open to a friendly amendment, noting that the wording can be changed to “acknowledge that James McGill owned slaves.”

Debate Period:

Councillor Saad discusses the cancellation of classes after 12:00PM and inquires what Council members think of cancelling Legislative Council on September 30. As representatives, it would be important to stand in solidarity and discuss these issues pertaining to this topic and Indigenous students. He would be in favour of keeping the meeting of September 30.

VP Internal Affairs agrees with Councillor Saad’s comments, noting that cancelling Legislative Council on September 30 would be the opposite of what we are trying to do, which would be a day of recognition and possibly invite a guest Speaker, rather than treat this as a holiday or day off.

VP External Affairs echoes the comments and sentiments presented earlier and that not going into debate and taking a moment to acknowledge this day is very important, however, what would outline the importance of this day is to hold Legislative Council meeting and taking a moment of silence, possibly ending the meeting earlier, as mentioned by VP Internal Affairs.

Councillor Zhang agrees with these comments and that this day should be for respect and reflection, and agrees that inviting a Speaker or a relevant activity would be important.

Councillor Tiniacos is concerned with the fact that the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner was not consulted on this, being the highest role and most knowledgeable in Indigenous Affairs at SSMU. Councillor Tiniacos continues that the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner is a woman, and that this motion was created and carried out by a male Executive within SSMU and this seems to be an exact example and case of what was previously described in the McGill Daily article.

VP External Affairs echoes Councillor Tiniacos’ comments and notes that it is worrying that the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner was not consulted on this. He notes that the Executives have had difficulty to reach the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner.

Voting period:

The Speaker announces that the Council will begin voting period.

Question:



Councillor Saad asks if there is space for any amendments to be proposed to the motion.

Answer:

The Speaker notes that they can accept amendments to the motion before voting.

Councillor Saad proposes to change the wording of “rebranding” to “increase acknowledgement”, and instead of cancelling the Legislative Council meeting to having a meeting with “an Indigenous approach” and possibly having a guest Speaker.

Councillor Holton inquires if this motion will not be approved today, would Councillors be able to make these consultations and due process and figure out what we mean by “Indigenous focus”.

The Speaker notes that these comments would be relevant for debate period, which has now passed. If Council wishes to extend debate period and come back to it, any Council member can motion to that effect.

VP University Affairs moves to extend or reopen debate period by 10 minutes, seconded by Councillor Saad. This is approved and the Council returns to debate period by unanimous vote.

Councillor Holton inquires about his question of clarification and that September 30 is already a set day and this motion would support this action of solidarity.

Councillor Kugelmass notes that Council should consider more consultations should be conducted prior to approving this motion, as noted by the VPs and Councillors prior.

Councillor Saad clarifies the “Indigenous focus”, including a minute of silence, hosting a guest Speaker concerning Indigenous issues, possibly from Parliament or from McGill, and the last point would be on how to support Indigenous students and peoples.

VP University Affairs is concerned about the lack of consultation and that this was not communicated to the rest of the Executive team. The other point is that this is already something that is being worked on in the Indigenous Affairs portfolio at SSMU. She does not believe that this is the appropriate motion to commit to our stand on solidarity.

Councillor Zhang would like to remind everyone that the meeting is in a week, so inviting a Speaker with less than a week's notice, and inquires if this would be feasible. Councillor Zhang also mentions that if we invite an Indigenous guest Speaker, SSMU will need to fairly compensate them for their emotional labor and where this budget would come from. There are a lot of logistics being discussed at the last minute, and she is worried that this will turn out to be performative if we are not able to accomplish these items, which would not be the Council's intentions.



Councillor Javed notes that she cannot speak on behalf of the President, but the date is a national federal holiday, as mentioned by Councillor Holton. If this motion can be brought back again at the next Council meeting, it will be too late.

Councillor Tiniacos mentions that Council can vote on this motion by email, once all consultations have been completed.

Councillor Kugelmass echoes VP University Affairs' comments.

VP Finance inquires what specific consultations should be conducted, other than the groups and individuals which were already mentioned, in order to have action items for the next few working days.

VP University Affairs indicates that she can reach out to the Indigenous Equity Researcher and Indigenous Affairs Commissioner in regards to this.

Councillor Saad discusses the funding, compensation and the item pertaining to the guest Speaker, and mentions that on campus, there are a few individuals in Indigenous-focused groups, or even members of Parliament such as Marc Miller, who is in Montreal, and he is the Minister of Indigenous Relations. He would be happy to reach out to these groups to inquire if Council could invite a Speaker although it would be a brief timeline. Councillor Saad also mentions that if we cannot find a guest Speaker for next week, having a fruitful conversation and a moment of silence would be appreciated.

There are no more points of debate pertaining to this motion.

The Speaker asks Councillor Javed to confirm if the amendments to the motions are friendly. Councillor Javed confirms in the affirmative.

VP University Affairs mentions her concerns with possibly inviting Marc Miller, a non-Indigenous person who takes on the role of Indigenous leadership in the Canadian government, and notes that this would not be in part of commitment to solidarity with Indigenous peoples. If Council wishes to invite an Indigenous guest Speaker, details and specifics would need to be ironed out in terms of compensation and other.

The Speaker notes that debate period has passed and voting period will be the next item.

The voting form is open and Council members can vote on this motion for one minute.

The Speaker announces that the motion has 11 votes in favour, 7 abstentions and 3 in opposition, the motion is approved.

13. Reports by Committees



Councillor Tiniacos asks if we can motion to suspend standing rules and have a generative discussion. The Speaker says that it is possible to suspend the rules but that would require a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote. Councillor Tiniacos would like to vote to suspend the rules.

The Speaker gives the Councillor 30 seconds to explain their motivation to suspend the rules.

The reason why the Councillor Tiniacos is motioning to suspend the rules and have a general discussion is to discuss the McGill Daily article that was just released. The Councillor believes it is important for the Legislative Council to address this issue. The Speaker indicates that this motion requires a second. Councillor Khamis seconds.

Councillor Tiniacos asks to suspend the rules for 10 minutes.

The Speaker enters the vote for the motion to suspend the rules for 10 minutes.

The Speaker asks the Governance Manager to create a poll for the vote.

Councillor Djossou asks for the summary of the McGill Daily article in question.

The Speaker replies that this will be discussed in more concrete terms if the motion is approved.

The Speaker announces that the poll will be launched shortly and reminds all Council members that it takes $\frac{3}{4}$ majority to suspend the rules.

The Speaker gives additional 30 seconds as 3 more votes are needed.

This motion fails by 59% to 41%.

No other motions are moved forward. The Speaker moves to the agenda item 13.a

a. Executive Committee

VP Finance presents the report. This is a public report of the Executive Committee for the past two months. The report mostly covers hirings. VP Finance indicates that some HR related information cannot be disclosed. Essentially the report goes over different hirings that were done in the past few months. There are other points here and there, and if anyone has questions regarding them, they can ask a question to VP Finance or to any other member of the Executive Committee. There are things like: two jobs for the McGill program that needed to be extended and approved, new signage in the UC. VP Finance does not believe there is anything particularly of note but he is open to give more information on anything provided in the report.



There are no questions about the Executive Committee Report.

14. Executive Reports

a. President

The President's report is presented by VP Finance on the President's behalf. VP Finance indicates that the President's electoral platform is available in both English and French as well as his personal contact information.

The report starts by outlining the Constitution, then the report talks about the one month training that all the Executives went through, and the first aid training. It also talks about various workshops, meetings and training with the McGill administration. For internal governance, it covers a variety of things: the President was working on the Legislative Council meetings, supporting Councillor orientations, setting up the first council meeting, going over the Board of Directors meetings (both public and confidential). The President went over committees, acted as a Chair Executive of a committee, worked on SAMOSA, BOMCOM, the environment committee, worked on Health and Dental and Finance committees.

Projects and Plans: the communications hand book has been completed, photography contract was renewed. The President worked with Governance to review the Constitution and Internal Regulations, worked on the operations of the 3501 Peel, food tenants and worked on the prayer room. VP Finance notes that the President worked on medical notes. The equity diversion and inclusion committee work is still in progress. And the SSMU's action plan to support black, indigenous and person of color students and persons with disabilities continues to be worked on, as well as the mandatory GSVP training, and equity training for staff and council members and upholding the confidentiality policy.

On the Events: the two jabs for McGill were organized by the President, and the B&I orientation. In regards to future events, there will be Orange Shirt Day. VP Finance adds that there will be a t-shirt sale and all the profits will go to a charity.

The president worked with the Human Resources department on work culture and how to establish a COVID-19 workspace that is safe and healthy. The President also attended staff meetings, department head meetings and developed a collective management plan. The President worked with the McGill administration and addressed a variety of issues such as vaccine passports, immigration issues, accommodations, and the ongoing investigation at the HR level.

b. VP Finance

VP Finance introduces his report, the VP says that he worked on a variety of projects this summer: financial profits, insurance program, and the financial support for clubs and services. The VP indicates that most of his work is administrative, such as processing Cheque Requests and keeping the expenditures within the budget. VP Finance states that the finance department hired the staff, and that



the funding committee is being assembled as we speak. The committee will be able to start either next week or the week after. The Accounting department was working on improving the processes on credit cards, cheque requests and purchase orders. Currently the department is working on the yearly audit. VP says that the Accounting department is in the process of hiring more staff to manage the increased workload. The VP adds that as the SSMU grows, we need more accountants.

For the Clubs and Services the club documents that need to be filled out every year are being updated.

VP Finance updates the Council on the General Budget. According to the VP everything is going well, and SSMU is currently spending under the budget. The Financial Society is very helpful, the lack of events due to covid gave us a large surplus and we are evaluating how to best allocate this to improve the life on campus while also considering the needs for the long term financial health of the society. VP Finance will be working on the budget revision in October, and VP will be looking if an increase of the membership fee will be necessary to increase the Society's staffing resources as many people are getting overworked. No funding request happened over the summer because there were no funding committee meetings.

In regards to projects, the VP Finance is working on increasing the scope of interest programs specifically working to help trans students and people with auditory issues. VP is also working on the fee consolidation with a number of services, working on managing the covid surplus in general as was mentioned earlier, and looking into possible tenants for 3501 peel. VP Finance says that there is a summary on the bottom if anyone wants to go over it. VP summarizes that essentially finances are going relatively well. And administrative work is most of VPs tasks, managing the covid surplus and planning out the long term finances of the Society. At this point, his approval rating is 100%, which means it can go up to a 200% approval rate.

There are no questions on the report of the VP Finance.

c. VP Student Life

The VP Student Life introduces herself. The VP says that her report is 4 pages long but she will try to summarize everything for the Council.

General Updates: the Masterlist has been updated, we now have all the information up to date. VP worked on the Space Agreements so every tenant at the UC has their agreement and has signed their agreement. VP is working on amending the student group IRs, so there are consultations happening at the moment. VP Student Life was also working on the manager workshops. There was a workshop last weekend and there will be make-up workshops on the upcoming weekend.

For clubs, the VP Student Life had some sanctions sent out at the beginning and now is working on amending the clubs' processes just to add some training and some mandatory items that have not



been there in the past. Electoral questions, travels questions, building questions were also addressed by VP.

For services: the VP was helping services with their building questions and just assisting them to get their office spaces ready. VP Student life did some hiring. But there is still an open role for the mental health department. VP Student Life states that there was a full team at the beginning and now the Mental Health Coordinator has stepped down, so the portfolio is actively hiring.

There are some other projects for the year that could be seen in the report.

For the Activities Night, there were many problems with the platform and a full refund was received. VP Student Life and her team are working on Activities Night 2.0.

For COVID 19: the VP Student Life is currently working with a lawyer to get some consultation on the vaccine passports as there are many grey areas.

For student Services, the VP just halted some partnerships that were not beneficial for the society. VP did some presentations with Campus Life and Engagement and currently is working on CCR recognition for all club executives.

VP Student Life says that if anyone has any questions, they can feel free to email the VP directly or pose their questions here.

There are no questions on the VP Student Life Report.

d. VP University Affairs (3)

VP University Affairs introduces herself. The VP says that this is her third year of involvement with SSMU.

VP University Affairs states that the role of the VP University Affairs traditionally is very reactionary, which means that student concerns should be addressed as they arise. Additionally, this portfolio has more staff than any other portfolio, so the staff also addresses the concerns as they come up. VP University Affairs explains that there was a lot of hiring going on throughout the summer and that the portfolio is still hiring. The VP attended a number of McGill governance meetings and some Senate Committee meetings had begun.

Some highlights of the projects: the Gender and Cexuality commissioner will be presenting next week and they've been working very hard all summer on student advocacy for Queer students. VP University Affairs says that Know Your Rights advocacy happens every year and it happened this year, COVID-19 safety and advocacy was incorporated into that. VP thinks that this went very well.



VP University Affairs states that Menstrual Health is getting their project back off the ground because it was largely stalled due to the pandemic. And there has been a lot of consultation and collaboration with other student unions, especially around situations of COVID. The VP University Affairs was working very closely with the counterparts at the Concordia Student Union, Bishop's University, and University of British Columbia (UBC).

VP University Affairs worked on the SSMU Open Letter regarding McGill University's 2021 plans and accommodations and the protest for safe and accessible campus, which was co-organized with VP External Affairs.

There were also ongoing student concerns regarding academic accommodations related to COVID. When people are not being accommodated by the University, they reach out to VP University Affairs, she will typically be able to refer them to the Dean of Students, who is usually very helpful.

There are no questions on the report of the VP University Affairs.

e. VP External Affairs

VP External Affairs presents himself. VP External Affairs is ready to answer any questions as this is just a broad overview of the portfolio this summer. The VP gives the context by saying that the External Affairs portfolio mainly works on advocacy, political campaigns and just exterior representation, specifically to the community but also on the municipal, provincial and federal levels.

The main projects that have been started and are ongoing over the summer are to improve the External Affairs accessibility by improving the External Affairs website, also to add some of the External Affairs portfolio to the Five Year Plan. And also working on the Royal Victoria Hospital, specifically pertaining to McGill's New Royal Victoria Hospital project, that has been referenced earlier.

The VP co-organized with the VP University Affairs a protest for the safe and accessible campus. He was also working on coalition building on municipal and provincial levels with other student unions.

Currently the Black Affairs Commissioner that was hired and the VP External affairs are in talks with the Black Students' Network (BSN), working regarding the James McGill statue, and also just working alongside the VP Internal Affairs and the Sponsorships Coordinator to improve sponsorships.

VP External Affairs notes that they have been reached out to from our partners for the affordable student housing plan that have possible locations for it.

VP External Affairs continues that the Undergraduate coalition of the research intensive universities in Canada (UCRU), which is a Federal coalition that SSMU has a seat at, released two letters. One for international students and vaccine access and the other for emergency funding for interregional transit support, these are attached to the VP's report.



VP External Affairs state that a letter was sent to McGill university regarding the New Vic project. There was also a meeting with McGill University and they presented their project further.

In regards to the Governance, VP External was elected as a Chair of UCRU's Bilingualism committee.

The VP States that he hired and onboarded two Political Campaign Coordinators and a Black Affairs Commissioner. Currently the portfolio is hiring an External Affairs Coordinator, a Community Engagement Commissioner, and a Policy & Mobilization Researcher, who will replace the Political Researcher, whose contract ended - with slight changes in the job description.

The VP External Affairs has been meeting with relevant community stakeholders and political representatives across Montreal and the Quebec province.

VP External Affairs also mentions the Divest for Human Rights Policy was ratified by the Board of Directors, and the Milton-Parc Citizens committee and SSMU have been working towards helping the Indigenous communities in Milton-Parc. That goes two ways: (1) the tents were lended to the homeless communities to provide shelter from rain and intense sunlight, and (2) we are trying to construct housing.

And finally, the VP is working with Concordia Student Union and Bishop's University Student Union on the Bill 96 response. The VP is planning to outline main campaigns on the SSMU website.

VP says that the portfolio is improving the way the Frosh street teams for accessibility and safety is conducted in future years.

There are no questions on the report of the VP External Affairs.

f. VP Internal Affairs (3)

VP Internal Affairs introduces herself. VP Internal Affairs states that some webinars to the first year students on how to get involved on campus were organized in collaboration with the VP Student Life.

VP was pushing for the Increase in SSMU branding through allocation more money to merchandising and giveaways, one of the giveaways happened on September 2nd in front of the UC.

The VP hired a First Year Affairs Commissioner and was working on promoting the election period (which has ended and now its campaigning).

VP also redesigned the Gerts' logo with the rest of the team.

For SSPN, the VP hired a new Internal Logistics Coordinator and had two meetings with the coordinator. All the applications are done for the committee members.



The VP is planning for Halloween while ensuring COVID-19 safety. She is thinking of doing a bar crawl but if that does not work, the VP says that there might be a location in the old port, which could allow up to 600 people with COVID numbers.

The VP had the first LifeAYD meeting and will have a follow-up at the end of the month to finalize the events and plan the labor division.

In communications updates, the VP Internal Affairs updated all the communications documents for the upcoming year, worked on the social media strategy. Now SSMU has more exec presence, more postings, and a more uniform theme. Also, the listserv was updated, new colors were added and some of the content placement was changed.

As to projects, the VP created a guide to add to the onboarding commissioners that details the different departments within the SSMU and how they can be of assistance for any projects the commissioners might be working on.

Also, the VP hired a new position under the portfolio, Internal Administrator, to help with smaller scale events. VP also adds that the Francophone affairs are going great. There are many fun projects coming there and many people applied for this committee.

VP says that she was working on bringing the portfolio back to life after the vacancy last year.

The Speaker takes a short question and answer period concerning the executive reports. The Speaker asks to raise hands if anyone has a question to the Executives. Seeing no questions, the Speaker moves to the final item.

The Speaker also shares that his goal for the year is to make sure that the Committee will not go drastically over time.

15. Adjournment: **20:36**

VP External Affairs moves to adjourn the meeting, seconded by VP University Affairs.

The meeting is adjourned at 20:36.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Eric S'.

Eric Sader, Vice-President (Finance)