



MOTION REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE GOVERNANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE 2021-11-04

Submitted for: 2021-11-04

Submitted to:	SSMU Board of Directors	Document no.:	BOD-PUB-MOT-2021-11-04-003
Moved by:	Sarah Paulin <i>Director</i>	Current Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Karla Heseile Cubilla <i>Director</i>		

Issue

The Comprehensive Governance Review Committee has failed to provide use for a couple of years. Because of the dissolution of the Governing Documents Researcher position and the creation of the Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, some of the duties of the committee have been shifted to the new position and are no longer valid or needed. As well, the needs of the Society have changed since it was created and the amendments brought forth in this motion reflect such changes.

Background and Rationale

The Comprehensive Governance Review Committee committee was created in 2018 with the purpose of alleviating some of the President's workload. However, this committee has had a very broad scope and was not specific enough for concrete work to be accomplished. Therefore, the terms of reference have been edited in order to give more direction to the committee. It has also been significantly decreased in size in order to only include people who have knowledge and interest in the policies and documents of the society. This committee also had to be adapted as the position of Governing Documents Researcher no longer exists. The scope of this committee now looks inwards instead of outwards towards Quebec laws and other student unions, as this work is already done by the Governance Manager and the President. This committee will instead



help with keeping up with our policies and ensuring we are staying true to our goals and plans while keeping up with our predetermined layouts for such policies.

Alignment with Mission

This motion will help the committee run more adequately and allow our policies to not only be more transparent, but more consistent and available for the student body.

Consultations Completed

Consultations were completed with the Governance Manager, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, and the SSMU Executives.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

There are no risk factors associated with this motion.

Sustainability Considerations

There are no sustainability considerations with this motion.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If the changes to this committee were to be accepted, the changes would automatically be put into place and the recruitment for the committee would begin so it could meet as early as possible.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors approve the changes to the Comprehensive Governance Review committee terms of reference found in Appendix A.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()



Appendix A : Terms of Reference

25. ~~Comprehensive Governance Review Committee~~ Governance Reform Committee

25.1. Oversight

The ~~Comprehensive Governance Review~~ **Reform** ~~Review~~ Committee shall be a ~~joint~~ Committee of ~~Legislative Council~~ and the Board of Directors.

25.2. General

The Governance **Reform** ~~Review~~ Committee shall review the Society's governance bodies, systems and structures with a view to making them reflective of our Mission. The Committee will devise a system that is: (a) in accordance with Quebec **and federal** law, (b) as democratic and transparent as possible, (c) simple, accessible and easy for students to understand. The Committee will look to other successful systems and adapt elements to our context. The Committee will also aim to root out inconsistencies that exist within our governance practices.

25.3. Responsibilities

The Governance **Reform** ~~Review~~ Committee shall:

- ~~a. research best practices at other student societies, union, and similar organizations;~~
- b. consult a wide range of ~~student~~ stakeholders in order to **review** ~~develop~~ a governance system that best reflects **Members** ~~students~~ needs, **priorities**, and realities;
- c. **review current and expiring SSMU policies and plans and propose the renewal of such documents when applicable;**
- d. review the entirety of SSMU's **governing** documents to sort out possible inconsistencies;
- e. simplify and shorten **governing** documents when possible, **based on provided guidelines, and**
- f. **review** ~~create~~ current guides and other resources so as to make SSMU's governance systems more accessible and easier to understand;
- ~~g. work in consultation with SSMU's lawyers;~~
- h. recommend practices and systems for review in the future; and



- i. present a report to Council ~~at least once a~~ **semester** ~~month~~ and to Board at least once a semester.

25.4. Membership

Governance ~~Reform~~ **Review** Committee shall consist of:

- a. **Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (co-chair, non-voting)** ~~the Governing Documents Researcher (Committee Chair, non-voting);~~
- b. **Vice-President Internal Affairs (co-chair, non-voting)**
- c. ~~the Speaker of Council, Speaker of Council On-Call, or the Parliamentarian (non-voting);~~
- d. two (2) **members of the Executive Committee, as selected by the Executive Committee Officers of the Society, as selected by the Executive Committee;**
- e. two (2) members of the Legislative Council, as selected by the Legislative Council;
- f. ~~one (1) member of Senate Caucus as selected by Senate Caucus;~~
- g. **two (2) member of the Board of Directors as selected by the Board of Directors;**
- h. ~~up to four (4) Executives from Services as nominated by the Services;~~
- i. ~~up to four (4) Executives from Independent Student Groups as nominated by the Independent Student Groups;~~
- j. ~~up to one (1) member of the Executive or Council of AUS, EUS, MUS and SUS, decided by the respective Councils;~~
- k. ~~up to two (2) members of the Executive or Council of the other faculty associations as well as schools with current representatives on the Legislative Council (DSS, EdUS, LSA, MSS, MUSA, POTUS, SWSA) proposed by the faculty associations; and~~
- l. Additional members can be consulted as needed and would likely include: Equity Commissioners, Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, Sustainability Commissioners, Mental Health Commissioner, and other staff and committee members as needed.

25.5. Meetings

The ~~Comprehensive Governance~~ **Reform** ~~Review~~ Committee will meet at least once a month during the Academic Year. Each month it will inform itself of:

- a. ~~legal considerations;~~
- b. Best practices;
- c. McGill's particular context;
- d. **Whether the policy follows current models;**
- e. Accessibility and feasibility of its recommendations.

25.5.1. When the Committee has questions about legal considerations or wants to arrange stakeholder consultation, it will communicate this to the Steering Committee. ~~Committee meetings should last no longer than 120 minutes.~~



25.6. Democratic, Popular Engagement

25.6.1. Consultation and Submissions

The Committee will organize ample opportunity for popular engagement both in terms of in-person live forums and anonymous or group online surveys and submissions. The committee will also help promote referendum questions and GA motions.

25.6.2. Popular Subcommittee

Additionally, beyond referring questions to study, the Committee will make questions generally available so that members can organize their own groups and submit proposals for the Committee to consider as it considers recommendations. The Committee will make publicly known the date by which these recommendations must be submitted. The Committee will consider anonymous, as well as attributed, submissions.

25.7. Quorum

25.7.1. Committee

Quorum for the Committee is when any three (3) of its voting or non-voting members are present, including the Committee Chair.

25.8. Recall and Suspension

25.8.1. Recall

The Committee Members' constituency may choose to recall the member by a majority vote at any time. The constituency can then fill the seat according to the process by which it was originally filled.

25.8.2. Suspension

The Committee can vote to suspend a member with a 4/5 majority. The Committee can set a suspension for a maximum term of three months. The Committee must state the reason for suspension. Legislative Council can overturn Committee suspension with a motion to reinstate passed by simple majority.



25.9. Reporting

The Comprehensive Governance Review Committee will report to the Legislative Council once **per semester by a live report.** ~~a month for five (5) to ten minutes.~~ The Comprehensive Governance Review Committee will report to the Board of Directors at least once a semester.

APPROVED