



MOTION REGARDING INTERIM PROVISIONS TO THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF STUDENT GROUPS 2021-11-25

Submitted for: 2021-11-25

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2021-11-25-002

Moved by: Yara Coussa
Arts Representative **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL
 APPROVED
 POSTPONED
 COMMITTED
 NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Ghania Javed
Arts Representative

Issue This motion seeks to adopt Interim Provisions to the *Internal Regulations of Student Groups* to improve the ability of Affiliated Political Campaigns to access resources of the Society.

Background and Rationale Per the *Internal Regulations of Student Groups*, Affiliated Political Campaigns are “campaigns which have received a mandate from either the Legislative Council, a Referendum, or a General Assembly and which address matters beyond the scope of the objects of the Society as set out in the Governance Documents.” Current Affiliated Political Campaigns include Divest McGill, the Divest for Human Rights campaign, and the McGill Student Union Democratization Initiative.

Currently, Affiliated Political Campaigns are not entitled to free room bookings or tabling in the University Centre, while Full Status Clubs, have up to 15 hours per week of free room booking in the University Centre and 8 hours free for kiosk/tabling. This has severely hampered the ability of



Affiliated Political Campaigns to host events, conduct meetings, and perform their activities as mandated by the Membership.

In addition, Affiliated Political Campaigns have faced hardships when attempting to receive financial and non-financial support from the Society, due to a lack of timely approval of requests from the Vice-President (External). This bureaucratic oversight has caused members of Affiliated Political Campaigns undue stress and has made it unnecessarily difficult for these Campaigns to count on the Society for its ongoing support.

To facilitate the proper functioning of the Society, these changes to the *Internal Regulations of Student Groups* are being introduced first as Interim Provisions per Section 1, Article 10 of the *Internal Regulations of Governance*, then as permanent amendments at the next meeting of the Legislative Council.

Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with the SSMU’s commitment to “demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights [and] social justice.”

Consultations Completed

Multiple Affiliated Political Campaigns of the Society have been consulted in the drafting of this motion, including Divest McGill and the McGill Student Union Democratization Initiative, as well as the Society’s Campaign Coordinators.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The proper functioning of Affiliated Political Campaigns would continue to be threatened if these changes are not adopted. Affiliated Political Campaigns would continue to lack the resources they need from the Society if the status quo is maintained.

Sustainability Considerations

There are no sustainability considerations.



Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If approved, this motion would immediately provide Affiliated Political Campaigns with up to 15 hours of free room booking and 8 hours of kiosk/tabling access in the University Centre. This motion would also enable Affiliated Political Campaigns to receive financial and non-financial resources from the Society in a more timely manner and allow for greater democratic oversight on how these resources are allocated.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved, that the following Interim Provisions to the *Internal Regulations of Student Groups*, as shown in Appendix A, be adopted;

Be it resolved, that these Interim Provisions expire on November 25, 2022 or when they are made permanent by a subsequent resolution.

Results of the Vote

In favour ()
Opposed ()
Abstain ()



APPENDIX A

Part II: Privileges Afforded to Political Campaigns

3. Financial Support

3.1. Political Campaigns Department

Financial support for Political Campaigns shall be allocated from the Society's Operating Fund and recorded in the Political Campaigns Department. Political Campaigns may also apply to other Society Funds provided they meet their requirements as per the Fund's mandate. Affiliated Political Campaigns shall be eligible to apply for the Club Fund as de facto Full Status Clubs.

3.2. Financial Support

Financial support shall be subject to the Internal Regulations of Finances and may include:

- a. reimbursement of expenses;
- b. payment of expenses; and
- c. the ability to deposit funds with the Society to be earmarked for the future use by that Political Campaign subject to the Internal Regulations of Finances.

3.3. Approval

The Vice-President (External Affairs) shall have discretion in awarding financial support for Independent Political Campaigns from the Political Campaigns Budget. The Vice-President (External Affairs) shall not have discretion in awarding financial support for Affiliated Political Campaigns from the Political Campaigns Budget.

3.4. Disapproval

If the Vice-President (External Affairs) would not approve of financial support being awarded to an Affiliated Political Campaign, they must present a Resolution to that effect at the forthcoming Legislative Council meeting after such a request for financial support is made. If such a Resolution is adopted, the request for financial support shall be denied. If awarding financial support would be in contravention to the Internal Regulations of Finances, the



Vice-President (Finance) shall disapprove such financial support, subject to the approval of the Vice-President (Finance) and in accordance with the Internal Regulations of Finances.

3.5. Limitation

The reimbursement or payment of a Political Campaign's expenses greater than five hundred dollars (\$500) must be reported to the Executive Committee.

3.6. Budget Requirement

Members running Independent Political Campaigns must submit a budget proposal to the Vice-President (External Affairs) in order to receive financial support. Affiliated Political Campaigns need not submit formal requests for financial support.

4. Non-Financial Support

4.1. General

Affiliated Political Campaigns may require non-financial support or privileges which are not generally available other than to Officers, Society staff or its Clubs and Services. Affiliated Political Campaigns shall be considered as de facto Full Status Clubs for the purposes of room bookings and kiosk/tabling. Requests for non-financial support may include but are not limited to:

- a. publicity; and
- b. room bookings.

4.2. Requests

Members running Affiliated Political Campaigns may submit their request for non-financial support from the Society to the Vice-President (External Affairs).

4.3. Approval

The Vice-President (External Affairs), and any other Officer whose permission is deemed necessary depending on the nature of the request, shall have discretion in awarding non-financial support for Independent Political Campaigns, in accordance with relevant Internal Regulations. The Vice-President (External Affairs), or any other Officer, shall not have discretion in awarding non-financial support for Affiliated Political Campaigns.

A request for non-financial support shall be considered by the Vice-President (External Affairs) and any other Officer whose permission is deemed necessary depending on the nature of the request, in accordance with relevant Internal Regulations.



4.4. Disapproval Disagreement

If the Vice-President (External Affairs) or any other Officer would not approve of non-financial support being awarded to an Affiliated Political Campaign, they must present a Resolution to that effect at the forthcoming Legislative Council meeting after such a request for non-financial support is made. If such a Resolution is adopted, the request for non-financial support shall be denied.

When the approval of an Officer in addition to the Vice-President (External Affairs) is required, as is the case for publicity and room bookings, and when the Vice-President (External Affairs) and the other relevant Officer do not agree on whether or not to allocate the non-financial support, the decision will be made by the Executive Committee.