



MOTION REGARDING THE ABSENCE OF THE SSMU PRESIDENT 2021-11-25

Submitted for: 2021-11-25

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2021-11-25-004

Moved by: Nathaniel Saad
Management Representative **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL
 APPROVED
 POSTPONED
 COMMITTED
 NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Mary Zhang
Management Representative

Issue This motion seeks to compel the SSMU President Darshan Daryanani, who has been absent for months, to submit a letter of resignation within 48 hours of this motion being passed, being held accountable for delinquency of duties.

Background and Rationale President Daryanani, whose duties include attending meetings of the Legislative Council and the Executive Committee, acting as the chief officer and chief spokesperson of the Society, has not attended a single meeting of the Legislative Council since his term began. According to the Executive Committee's reports to the Legislative Council, he has not attended a meeting of the Executive Committee since August 30, 2021.¹

On the McGill Senate membership page, it lists the SSMU President seat as vacant,² indicating a deficit of undergraduate student representation on McGill's highest academic governing body.

¹ [SSMU: Report – Executive Committee 2021-09-23](#)

² [McGill University: Senate Membership 2021-2022](#)



Numerous times, at the October 14, 2021, October 28, 2021, and November 11, 2021, Legislative Council meetings, questions were asked of the Executive concerning the continued absence of the President. In almost every case, the Executive declined to provide any details of the President's whereabouts. The Executives also continued to refuse to provide any information about the President's absence to the student press, with the Vice-President (Internal Affairs) "ask[ing] the Daily not to investigate further."³

Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with the primary mission of the Society, to represent its members in their capacity as students. It does this best when its officers and employees carry out their duties. The President must represent the members on the Board of Governors, on the McGill Senate, and to the public. Without the SSMU President, a vital function of the Society remains unfulfilled, and without any information concerning his whereabouts, there remains a lack of accountability.

Consultations Completed

Members of the Legislative Council have on multiple occasions formally asked the Executives about the absence of the President. Members of the student press have also inquired about the absence of the President.

Various members of the Legislative Council have been involved in discussions, many of whom have taken this motion back to their respective faculties for feedback.

This motion was drafted by members of the Legislative Council, in partnership with students concerned about the management of the Society.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Vice-President (Finance) Sader refused to reveal whether the Society is paying President Daryanani during his absence. This has financial resource implications for the Society, as salaries are among the Society's biggest expenditures. In a session of the Legislative Council, it was confirmed that the President's respective salary totals around \$32,000 CAD.

³ [McGill Daily: SSMU President's Leave of Absence Continues](#)



The continued absence of the President has led to, and will continue to lead to, lapses in proper representation of student interests at our University, and a lack of leadership. This threatens the viability of the operations of the Society, as well as the accountability and transparency that should accompany this office.

Sustainability Considerations

No sustainable democracy can withstand this kind of lack of information from its Members and their representatives of critical information about the status of its leaders. Organizations have leaders and presidents for a purpose, and without them, that purpose remains unfulfilled.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If approved, this motion would call for the President to submit a letter of resignation within 48 hours of the ratification of the motion by the SSMU Board of Directors.

If no letter is received, the Council shall be incentivized to call on the SSMU Board of Directors to initiate a special General Assembly, per section 13.2 of the SSMU Constitution⁴, at the start of the Winter 2022 semester.

At said special General Assembly, a motion may be brought forward to seek the will of the student body concerning holding a referendum with the goal of calling on the SSMU Board of Directors to remove the President from Office.

The President would have an opportunity to answer for his absence at the General Assembly. Should he remain absent and the motion pass, then the vote would follow normal proceedings under section 14 of the SSMU Constitution.⁵

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Whereas, President Darshan Daryanani has been absent from, and therefore unable to perform, his duties;

⁴ [The Constitution of the Students' Society of McGill University](#)

⁵ [The Constitution of the Students' Society of McGill University](#)



Whereas, the Executives are unable to address the attempts by members of the Legislative Council to investigate their continued absence;

Be it resolved, that the Legislative Council calls for the President to submit a letter of resignation within 48 hours of this motion being ratified by the SSMU Board of Directors ;

Be it resolved, that should no letter of resignation be submitted by the President within the allotted time, the Legislative Council calls for a Special General Assembly within the first week of the Winter 2022 semester;

Be it resolved, that pursuant to consultations and inquiries from students and faculties, a motion may be submitted at the aforementioned special General Assembly to impeach the SSMU President.

**Results of the
Vote**

In favour	(18)
Opposed	(0)
Abstain	(9)
