



# MOTION REGARDING THE VICE-PRESIDENT SUSTAINABILITY AND OPERATIONS 2022-01-20

Submitted for: 2022-01-20

**Submitted to:** SSMU Legislative Council      **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2022-01-20-003

**Moved by:** Sarah Paulin  
Vice-President (Internal)      **Current Status:**  FOR APPROVAL  
 APPROVED  
 POSTPONED  
 COMMITTED  
 NOT APPROVED

**Seconded by:** Nathan Claret  
Services Representative

## Issue

Following the Judicial Board's decision in *Miller v. SSMU [2020-09-02]* (and the subsequent failure of the 2020 Special Referendum), the position of Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) has been reinstated. In recent years, the position has not been elected and the portfolio has been divided among the other Executives. The position was removed from the SSMU Constitution, during previous revisions of 2020-03-27. While a motion was passed at the Legislative Council meeting of 2021-01-14, which suspended elections for the position for the 2021-2022 Executive Elections, the motion is no longer in effect.

## Background and Rationale

One of the positions currently listed in SSMU Constitution is the Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations). The Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) is responsible for overseeing the development and use of the University Centre, overseeing the management of the Society's business operations, as well as to operationalise the Society's commitment to environmental sustainability, physical accessibility, and mental health resources. The Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) was also a de-facto member of the Board of Directors.

Due to a multitude of different factors (including the closure of the University Centre between 2018-2020), the decision was taken not to elect a Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations). For the past few academic



years, the Legislative Council has passed motions which suspended elections for this Executive position. In 2019-2020, the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee (CGRC) recommended the removal of the position from the SSMU Constitution, which was originally approved by the Society's Membership by way of Referendum in Winter 2020.

In the constitutional revisions currently underway, the Vice-President (Operations and Sustainability) is to be removed from the SSMU Constitution and will no longer be a part of the Executive team, once presented and approved by way of Referendum as a constitutional amendment.

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### Alignment with Mission

Fair representation is one of the core missions of the SSMU. SSMU's Membership deserves effective representation by those they elect to serve. Simply electing someone to a position, which has been vacant for years and no longer needed, is not the best way to represent our membership. Without any recent institutional memory and the need to reconstitute the portfolio, any incoming Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) will not be able to effectively represent members of the SSMU. In addition, this election for this position may disrupt how the Executive team and full-time staff have been working.

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### Consultations Completed

The Executive Committee, Governance Manager, Building Director, Ancillary Services Manager and Gerts Bar Manager were all consulted during the deliberations of this motion.

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### Risk Factors and Resource Implications

If this motion is not approved, Elections SSMU would proceed to include the position of Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) for the 2022-2023 Executive Elections for the next academic year; a position which has been vacant for the past few years. As well, the portfolio (which has been divided among the other Executives and full-time staff) would need to be reconstituted, by the current and incoming Executives.

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### Sustainability Considerations

One consideration could be that if the executives were to continue to only be a team of five (5) individuals, they would be overburdened by the workload it would take to take on the additional roles of the Vice-President

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(Operations and Sustainability). However, after consultations with full-time staff who have taken some of the responsibilities as well as redistributing roles into the Internal Affairs portfolio to make it more sustainable, there would not be enough work for the Operations role to return.

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### Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion be approved, the decision would be communicated to Elections SSMU, ahead of the nomination period for the 2022 SSMU Executive Elections. The decision would also be communicated to the Governance Review Committee (GRC) by the Speaker.

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### Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved, that the Legislative Council acknowledges that the Vice-President (Operations and Sustainability) will not be elected for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Be it further resolved, that the Legislative Council propose for the constitutional amendments to be presented in order to remove the Vice-President (Operations and Sustainability) role from the Constitution.

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### Results of the Vote

In favour	(24)
Opposed	(2)
Abstain	(1)

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