



MOTION REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF OFFICER DARYANANI 2022-04-11

Submitted for: 2022-04-11

Submitted to: SSMU Special General Assembly **Document no.:** GA-PUB-MOT-2022-04-11-001

Moved by: Andrés Pérez Tiniacos **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL
SSMU Member APPROVED

Seconded by: Nathaniel Saad POSTPONED
SSMU Member COMMITTED
 NOT APPROVED

Issue

This motion seeks to remove Officer Daryanani from office in accordance with section 10.6 of the [SSMU Constitution](#) under grounds of ‘impropriety’, defined as “a failure to observe standards or show due honesty or modesty; improper language, behaviour, or character.”¹ These characteristics have been articulated by the investigation against him², the numerous articles in the McGill Daily³ and McGill Tribune⁴ concerning both his absence and return, and the unsafe environment he has brought to SSMU as seen at the Legislative Council meeting of February 17th 2022⁵ and the General Assembly of February 21st 2022⁶. President Daryanani is unable to appropriately represent student constituents and carry out their duties.

Background and Rationale

An assortment of the SSMU Legislative Councillors, along with constituents and members of the SSMU Student Body, believe that the working environment perpetuated by President Daryanani is inappropriate and misrepresentative of the safe, inclusive space SSMU should aim to foster. After passing the “Motion Regarding the Absence of the SSMU President”⁷ in the SSMU Legislative Council during the Fall 2021 semester, only to have it

¹ Oxford English Dictionary.

² <https://www.mcgilldaily.com/2022/03/investigation-against-daryanani-botched/>

³ <https://www.mcgilldaily.com/2021/11/ssmu-presidents-leave-of-absence-continues/>

⁴ <https://www.mcgilltribune.com/news/reason-for-ssmu-presidents-long-absence-still-unknown-22022022/>

⁵ <https://ssmu.ca/governance/ssmu-legislative-council/>

⁶ [2022-02-22 GA Livestream](#)

⁷ [Motion Regarding the Absence of the SSMU President](#)



subsequently postponed indefinitely by the SSMU Board of Directors, the avenue of a Special General Assembly is what the writers of this motion are convinced is the next step.

In addition to the aforementioned events, it was revealed that the President had been under investigation⁸ for three complaints against him in June 2021, within mere months of his mandate and before the start of the academic year. The investigation failed to specify any conclusion about the third complainee. The presence of this investigation and its nature is cause for concern. All point to controversy and a perpetuation of the troubling environment of SSMU by the President.

This motion is necessary not simply to rectify the harmful environment that SSMU currently holds, but to halt the perception of improper behaviour SSMU has seen in recent years and to prohibit a dangerous precedent from being set, in which people in a position of power can act inappropriately without repercussions or accountability.

Alignment with Mission

The SSMU has the responsibility as a point of leadership, representation, and service to a diverse membership to conduct itself with integrity, respect, and inclusivity.

The [Equity Policy](#) mandates the SSMU to promote equity at all levels. As such the SSMU regards harassment and/or discrimination as serious offences that undermine its constitutional commitment to respect as outlined in the preamble of the [SSMU Constitution](#). The Society also claims accountability and transparency for its internal processes and conduct to the student body.

Consultations Completed

The Legislative Council, Speaker of Council, constituents and members of the SSMU student body were all consulted during the deliberations of this motion.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

If this motion is not approved, Officer Daryanani would be able to remain in office. This would perpetuate the problematic and deeply troubling employee discomfort within the SSMU working environment regarding his presence and interpersonal relations with other members of the SSMU workforce. In confidence, many members of the student body have approached SSMU Legislative Councillors detailing their unease and

⁸ <https://www.mcgilldaily.com/2022/03/investigation-against-daryanani-botched/>



confirming the sense of impropriety they received from the aforementioned situation.

Sustainability Considerations

Should this motion fail to be approved, it would be difficult for the SSMU to properly fulfil its equity mandate. Additionally, the writers of this motion believe that the status quo would perpetuate the dangerous precedent previously mentioned.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion pass, the SSMU President shall be removed from office immediately, and his duties shall fall to the other members of the Executive for the remainder of the term (as has been happening during his 6-month absence). This shall be publicly announced to the student body as soon as possible. The president's duties, transition responsibilities, and other factors shall be delegated and divided by the remaining SSMU Executives as they see fit, within the oversight of Legislative Council, the McGill student body, and the Constitution of SSMU.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

WHEREAS, the student body has mobilised and collected the required number of signatures to call for this Special General Assembly, as per section 13.2 of the [SSMU Constitution](#), with the purpose of removing Officer Daryanani from office.

WHEREAS, numerous members of the student body have expressed in confidence to their elected representatives their experiences and perceptions regarding this situation, and their desire to see a motion of this nature brought forward.

WHEREAS, as evidenced during the SSMU Legislative Council⁹ and SSMU General Assembly,¹⁰ the SSMU President acted inappropriately in accusing the Board of Directors of SSMU of lying¹¹, indirectly attacked the Speaker¹², exhibited heated behaviour¹³, remained both defensive and confrontational regarding the allegations against him and those pushing for answers respectively, perpetuated an unsafe and uncomfortable environment referenced by different Councillors^{14 15}.

⁹ <https://ssmu.ca/governance/ssmu-legislative-council/>

¹⁰ [2022-02-22 GA Livestream](#)

¹¹ <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Minutes-General-Assembly-Winter-2022-For-Approval-2022-02-21.pdf?x21981>: SSMU GA Minutes p.24

¹² <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Minutes-General-Assembly-Winter-2022-For-Approval-2022-02-21.pdf?x21981>: SSMU GA Minutes p.26

¹³ Ibid., 18.

¹⁴ Ibid., 8.

¹⁵ Ibid., 4.



WHEREAS, the situation has become so concerning to the point that members of the General Assembly were having panic attacks¹⁶ and informed councillors, in confidence, that they had to leave because of the presence of the President, as well as the Anti-Violence Coordinator (AVC) was needed at Council meetings¹⁷ coinciding with the return of the President.

WHEREAS, Presidents Daryanani's sexist behaviour can be dated back to his role of Vice-President (External) of the Arts Undergraduate Society^{18 19}.

WHEREAS, as per the [Equity Policy](#) 'The safety and equitable treatment for all persons is paramount to SSMU's mandate, as it continues to support students, student-led initiatives and their communities as they further address systemic oppression', and its method of application is through formal complaints.

WHEREAS, in June 2021 three complaints were made against President Daryanani for allegations of sexism and harassment²⁰.

WHEREAS, as per section 10.6 of the [SSMU Constitution](#) 'impropriety' constitutes grounds to remove an Officer from office.

Be it resolved that this Special General Assembly removes Darshan Daryanani from his position as SSMU President.

Be it further resolved, that should the Special General Assembly motion be approved, an online ratification of this Motion will be sent to the SSMU Membership, requiring 10% quorum.

Results of the
Vote

<input type="checkbox"/>	In favour	(351)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Opposed	(27)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	(22)

¹⁶ Ibid., 29.

¹⁷ Ibid., 28.

¹⁸ Ibid., 29.

¹⁹ <https://www.mcgilldaily.com/2022/03/investigation-against-daryanani-botched/>

²⁰ Ibid.