



# MOTION REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE GOVERNANCE REFORM COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE 2022-09-15

Submitted for: 2022-09-15

<b>Submitted to:</b>	SSMU Legislative Council	<b>Document no.:</b>	LEG-PUB-MOT-2022-09-15-002
<b>Moved by:</b>	Risann Wright <i>President</i>	<b>Current Status:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Amelia Whitcomb <i>Science Representative</i>		

**Issue** After one year of renewed existence since the last revision of its terms of reference, the Governance Reform Committee has been struggling with low engagement and limited projects.

**Background and Rationale** Revamped in Fall 2021, the Governance Reform Committee suffered from incomplete membership, resulting in low engagement. This motion seeks both to remediate the membership situation, with the inclusion of the President and the Accessibility Commissioner, and optimize the Committee's capacities, by extending its scope to policy development assistance and structural collaboration. In particular, the presence of the Accessibility Commissioner will enable the Committee to address the attitudinal and physical barriers in governance procedures in need of revision. Finally, the development of an annual cross-departmental project will be an occasion for the Committee members and other SSMU actors to exchange best practices and engage in capacity-building activities.

**Alignment with Mission** This motion will help the committee run more adequately and allow the governance process to be more transparent and accessible to the Society's Members, as required by the Accessibility Policy .



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## Consultations Completed

Consultations were completed with the Vice-President (Internal Affairs), Governance Manager, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, and the Accessibility Commissioner.

The previous membership of the Committee had also been consulted as the proposal was included in the Committee's end of year report.

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## Risk Factors and Resource Implications

There are no risk factors for this motion.

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## Sustainability Considerations

There are no sustainability considerations with this motion.

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## 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.

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## Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the changes to the Governance Reform Committee terms of reference found in Appendix A.

Be it further resolved, that the Legislative Council recommend the ratification of these terms of reference to the SSMU Board of Directors, at which point they will come into effect.

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## Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()



## Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

### 21. Governance Reform Committee

#### 21.1. Oversight

The Governance Reform Committee shall be a committee of the Board of Directors.

#### 21.2. General

The Governance Reform 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 Members students to understand. The Committee will look to other successful systems and adapt elements to our context. The Committee will also aim to sort out inconsistencies and/or obsolete procedures that exist within our governance practices and act as a primary advisory body for policies, plans and projects under development.

#### 21.3. Responsibilities

The Governance Reform Committee shall:

- a. consult a wide range of stakeholders in order to review a governance system that best reflects Members needs, priorities and realities;
- b. review current and expiring SSMU policies and plans and propose the renewal of such documents when applicable;
- c. review the entirety of SSMU's governing documents to sort out possible inconsistencies and/or obsolete procedures;
- d. simplify and shorten governing documents when possible, based on provided guidelines;
- e. review and update current guides and other resources and develop new resources so as to make SSMU's governance systems more accessible and easier to understand;
- f. make recommendations for streamlining governance practices;
- g. recommend practices and systems for review in the future;
- h. act as the primary advisory body for policies, plans and projects under development; and
- i. present a report to the Legislative Council at the penultimate meeting of the academic year ~~once a semester~~ and to the Board of Directors at least once a semester.



## 21.4. Membership

The Governance Reform Committee shall consist of:

- a. the Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (co-chair, non-voting);
- b. the Vice-President (~~Internal Affairs~~) (co-chair, non-voting);
- c. two (2) members of the Executive Committee, as selected by the Executive Committee;
- d. two (2) members of the Legislative Council, as selected by the Legislative Council;
- e. two (2) members of the Board of Directors, as selected by the Board of Directors;
- f. the Accessibility Commissioner; and
- g. 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.

## 21.5. Meetings

The Governance Reform Committee will meet at least once a month during the Academic Year.

Each month it will inform of:

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

**21.5.1.** When the Committee has questions about legal considerations ~~or wants to arrange stakeholder consultation~~, it will communicate this to the Steering Committee.

## 21.6. Democratic, Popular Community Engagement and Structural Collaboration

### 21.6.1. Community Engagement Consultation and Submissions

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

### 21.6.2. Structural Collaboration Popular Subcommittee

The Committee will organize stakeholder consultation on its ongoing projects and act as an advisory body for policies, plans and projects under development. Additionally, the Committee will, at least once a year, develop a joint project with another committee, or any SSMU structure or position. Coordinated by an ad hoc subcommittee composed of volunteer members of the Committee and its collaboration party, the project will take the form of a



report, resource, or activity organized jointly by both entities and shall be relevant to the mandate of both the Committee and its collaborating party, 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.

## 21.7. Quorum

### 21.7.1 Committee

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

## 21.8. Reporting

The Governance Reform Committee will report to the Legislative Council at the penultimate meeting of the academic year once per semester by a live report. The Governance Reform Committee will report to the Board of Directors at least once a semester.