



MOTION REGARDING AN INTERIM PROVISION TO THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS ON ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA 2022-11-03

Submitted for: 2022-11-03

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2022-11-03-001

Moved by: Matthew O'Boyle
Arts Representative **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL
 APPROVED
 POSTPONED
 COMMITTED
 NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Natan Sakajiri
Arts & Science Representative

Issue The Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda prohibit campus media involvement in campaigns in a way that is confusing and difficult to apply in the case of existence and fee referenda for media organizations themselves.

Background and Rationale The Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda serve as a structural backbone in order for student groups to operate when running a referendum of existence. This document gives clear indication on interpretation, administration, & regulation of campaign rules for student groups.

The Tribune Publications Society, the Daily Publications Society, Radio CKUT, and TVM are required to run existence or fee referenda in order to continue operating. Elections SSMU usually conducts these referenda and applies SSMU Internal Regulations, including campaign rules.

The Internal Regulations of Elections currently prohibit campus media from promoting a referendum vote using their respective platform, as well as from producing content while running a campaign, which is impractical for these groups once their organization needs to run a campaign. It is not clear



how the rules are meant to apply in these cases, and they are not consistently enforced.

Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with the SSMU’s commitment to “serve as an umbrella organization to coordinate and support the student groups that make up civic life in the McGill community, while providing services to strengthen the educational, cultural, environmental, political, and social conditions of their Members”.

This change would further allow SSMU to support its services and independent student groups more effectively in their referendum campaigns.

Consultations Completed

The Tribune Publications Society and the Daily Publications Society jointly support this motion. CKUT was involved in early discussions that led to the drafting of this motion, but consultations on the current draft could not be completed in time. Consultations were also held with TVM, which expressed support. Elections SSMU was also asked to provide comments on the current draft.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

See Clause 2.1 & 2.2 in Appendix A

2.1 No Campaign may abuse positions they hold with any group to provide greater resources, exposure, or support to their campaign. Such abuses shall include, but are not limited to, subversion of, or exertion of undue influence on, any established systems for issuing endorsements, using privileged access to contact lists or social media platforms to campaign, and any other actions deemed inappropriate by the Chief Electoral Officer

2.2 No officer, director, or employee of the Society or of a school, faculty, or departmental association may use their position, or any benefits associated with it, in order to aid a Campaign.

Sustainability Considerations

There are no sustainability considerations. The Interim provision will be exhausted in a year.



**Impact of
Decision
and Next Steps**

If approved, this motion would provide campus media groups permanent structural support allowing them to fairly run referendum campaigns in accordance with SSMU's regulations with clear guidelines and requirements. If this change is made, campus media groups would be able to campaign for their continued operation more effectively and confidently.

**Motion or
Resolution for
Approval**

Be it resolved that the interim provision to the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda, as shown in Appendix A, be approved.

Be it resolved, the interim provision will be exhausted in November, 2023.

**Results of the
Vote**

In favour ()
Opposed ()
Abstain ()

COMMITTED



APPENDIX A: RELEVANT APPENDIX

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA-05: CAMPAIGNING

2. Abuse of Positions

2.1. General

No Campaign may abuse positions they hold with any group to provide greater resources, exposure, or support to their campaign. Such abuses shall include, but are not limited to, subversion of, or exertion of undue influence on, any established systems for issuing endorsements, using privileged access to contact lists or social media platforms to campaign, and any other actions deemed inappropriate by the Chief Electoral Officer

2.2. Association Executives

No officer, director, or employee of the Society or of a school, faculty, or departmental association may use their position, or any benefits associated with it, in order to aid a Campaign.

2.3. Groups, Clubs, Service Executives

~~No member of a Club, Service, Independent Student Group, or media organization may use their position in order to aid a Campaign.~~

Anyone holding a position in any Club, Service, or Independent Student Group, other than a position in a media organization, must refrain from using that position in order to aid a Campaign other than a Campaign for an existence or fee referendum related to that group.

2.4. Temporary Suspension of Duties

~~During the Campaign Period, all Campaigns with a position providing access to broadcasting and/or programming abilities shall forgo their programming and broadcasting responsibilities. Likewise, all Campaigns who have editorial duties, including contributions, with a campus publication shall refrain from fulfilling those duties during the Campaign Period.~~

A member of a Campaign who has broadcasting, programming or editorial duties, including contributions, with a campus media organization unrelated to the Campaign shall refrain from fulfilling those duties during the Campaign Period.