



SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

November 03, 2022

The regular monthly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference, on Thursday, November 03, 2022 at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:20**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order. He reminds everyone that the meeting is recorded.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

The Speaker takes attendance.

Present are Councillors Mickelson, O'Boyle, Gurung, Sakajiri, Tai, Syed, Nam, Pollard, Reed, Thom, Wan, Dadulla, Adler, Whitcomb (proxy Asma Khamis), Parish, Wang, Deng, President Wright, VP Internal Affairs Williams, VP Student Life Koulibaly, VP Finance Pizarro, VP External Affairs Masny, VP University Affairs Yang.

Absent are Councillor Voustinas, Djoussou, Dakdouki, Thomas, Seth, Griffith, D'Amore.

4. Adoption of the Agenda – **APPROVED**

The Agenda is distributed.

Seeing no changes, the agenda is adopted unanimously.

5. Minutes for Approval:

- a. SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2022-10-06 – **APPROVED**



The minutes are distributed. Seeing no changes, the minutes stand approved.

6. Motion Regarding Nomination of Council Members to the Board of Directors – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** (moved by: President, Risann Wright, second: Councillor Wan)

President Wright states that the Board of Directors is the highest governing body of SSMU, it oversees legal, financial and corporate duties of the Society and is essential to its functioning. It approves everything that the Society does. In order to fulfil the constitution, the seats on the Board must be filled. 3 Councillors are needed to sit on the Board. At this point, they need to put names forward. She clarifies that once councillors have put themselves forward, their names will go into a referendum question that will be approved by the student body. As a Director, councillors would be able to vote on behalf of the students. They would vote on expenses and ratifications of motions. She assures everyone that councillors will be well-equipped for this position, they will receive training and resources to assist them. Previous Board members and the Governance Team can also help. For the past year, Board meetings have ranged from 2-2.5 hours every two weeks. Members will have plenty of time to prepare, as documents will be sent prior to meetings. There are many benefits to being a Director, including experience and learning, networking opportunities and a greater understanding of what SSMU does for its students. The Board also provides team-building opportunities and other events. President Wright stresses the importance of the role for the Society. She asks for Councillors to step forward to nominate themselves to the Board. She stands for questions.

Councillor Wan seconds this motion.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Councillor Reed asks what the options are for someone who wants to participate, but who is not a permanent resident.

Answer:

President Wright answers that non-permanent residents would be non-voting members and would be the International Student Representative. Only permanent residents or citizens can be voting members.

Question:



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Councillor Wang asks if there are any limitations for those who may have conflicts of interest, and if members of the Board get paid by SSMU.

Answer:

President Wright answers that there would be no issues when presenting motions, but if Councillor Wang feels that there is a conflict of interest, they can abstain from voting.

Question:

Councillor Reed asks what the status of the International Student Representative is being replaced soon.

Answer:

President Wright answers that the position will be open in November. She yields her time to the Parliamentarian, who is overseeing this process.

Question:

Councillor Wang asks if Board members get paid by SSMU.

Answer:

President Wright answers that there is no compensation, and it is illegal for Directors to be paid for sitting on the Board because of conflicts of interest and biases.

Question:

Councillor Wang asks how long the term is.

Answer:

President Wright answers that the term is one year long.

Question:

Councillor Deng asks how many people there are already on the Board.

Answer:

President Wright answers that there are currently 8 people on the Board, but some terms are ending shortly so that is why they need new members [to join].



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Question:

VP Finance Pizarro asks how many Councillors the Board needs.

Answer:

President Wright answers that they need 3 Councillors.

Question:

VP Finance Pizarro asks what happens if they do not get 3 Councillors tonight.

Answer:

President Wright answers that they will not be able to add Councillors to the referendum question to have them approved after tonight. They will then be violating the constitution and the Board will be invalid. She reminds everyone of the significance of this motion.

Question:

Councillor Gurung asks if she could fill one of the Councillor seats in her capacity as a proxy, or for the interim period, to help out. She does not want to be a permanent member.

Answer:

President Wright answers that Councillor Gurung could do that for an interim seat, but not as a proxy for the full term.

The Speaker adds that proxies cannot sit on the Board, since they are not Councillors. She could proxy for someone sitting on the Board.

The Speaker entertains a debate period.

Question:

Councillor Dadulla asks if there are already set times for the bi-weekly meetings.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that all meeting dates are on the SSMU website. The meetings are every other Thursday at 18:00.



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Councillor Wan reminds Councillors that now would be the time to volunteer themselves to the Board.

The Speaker states that they will not move on with the agenda until the seats are filled. This motion is crucial for the Society.

President Wright states that any reason for hesitation should be addressed now. This function is crucial to the Society, so they need to fill the seats.

VP University Affairs Yang states that the time commitment this year is not very heavy, especially since the meetings are held every other week.

The Speaker gives all the pros of being on the Board: small time commitment, looks good on a resume, important role in the Society, validate motions, in-depth look at SSMU's functioning.

President Wright invites anyone with apprehension to come forward so that their concerns can be addressed.

Question:

Councillor Wang asks if it is possible to expand the monthly meeting time to monthly instead of bi-weekly.

Answer:

President Wright answers that the meetings have been set in advance, but there is a mechanism to change the schedule for the winter semester. Right now, it is extremely difficult to change meetings, since they have already been set. She reiterates that meetings do not take long, and meals are provided.

Question:

Councillor Adler asks whether it is possible for two (2) Councillors from the same faculty who are both Canadian to sit on the Board and rotate, making the time commitment more attainable.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that both Councillors can be Directors, but they cannot share a seat. Legally, Directors become personable, so legal treatment cannot be shared. He recommends that councillors volunteer.



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Councillor Wan states that the time commitment is about 2 hours every 2 weeks, and so far he has been able to manage being on the Board while working 60-hour weeks. If anyone has questions about time commitment and management, he can help since he has a lot of experience.

The Speaker notes that Councillor Wan has been a great example of time management, he has taken meetings from hospitals and on transit. He has still been able to manage it very well and sit on the Board for the past few years.

Question:

Councillor Adler asks, if they nominate themselves now, when their term would end.

Answer:

The Parliamentarian answers that the term is a year long and would end next November.

Question:

Councillor Adler asks what they would do if they were no longer students at that point.

Answer:

Councillor Wan answers that a legal requirement to sit on the Board is being a member of SSMU, so once students graduate they can no longer sit on the Board and would have to step down.

Question:

Councillor Wang asks if the meetings are online or in-person.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that the meetings are hybrid.

Question:

Councillor Nam asks what the absence process is for the Board.

Answer:

The Parliamentarian answers that two absences can be grounds for removal from the Board.



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President Wright adds that Directors can disclose absences in advance.

Question:

Councillor Dadulla asks about the proxy process, if it is the same as it is for Councillors.

Answer:

President Wright answers that the proxy process is different, because Directors have to act in the best interests of SSMU.

The Speaker adds that being a Board member is greater than just showing up, it is a legal responsibility in which members become legal custodians of the company. He proposes a 5-minute recess to allow councillors to think about it.

Councillor Wan motions for a 5-minute recess. VP University Affairs Yang seconds the motion for a 5-minute recess.

The meeting resumes at 19:06.

Councillor Nam nominates herself to the Board.

Councillor Wang nominates herself to the Board.

President Wright states that if there are any cons that come up, they will address them.

Question:

Councillor Tai asks if Directors must prepare before meetings.

Answer:

Councillor Wan answers that it is good practice to prepare for meetings, and it takes some time to review motions for approval. Documents are generally ready a week in advance.

The Speaker adds that it is not a large responsibility to prepare for meetings. He asks if Councillor Tai is interested in sitting on the Board.



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Councillor Tai answers yes, but he has a lot on his plate.

The Speaker encourages that he weigh the pros and cons.

President Wright assures Councillor Tai that there are generally 2-3 motions for meetings, and states that it is not an exhaustive process. They are all students, and if there are ever issues, there can be accommodations.

Councillor Wan states that Directors will develop their time management skills. There had been some times where he had to skip meetings because of commitments.

Question:

Councillor Tai asks if the meetings are on Thursdays.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that the meetings are Thursdays at 18:00, and the specific dates are on the website. He reads them out. There are only 2 more meetings this semester, and there are 9 meetings next semester.

Councillor Tai nominates himself to the Board.

President Wright thanks him for coming forward, and thanks the other councillors who volunteered.

The Speaker echoes President Wright's sentiment.

Question:

VP Finance Pizarro asks if Councillors can nominate themselves to the Board during the semester.

Answer:

The Speaker answers no.

Councillor Wan motions to call the question. The motion is seconded.



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Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote by unanimous consent.

Seeing no opposition, the Motion Regarding Nomination of Council Members to the Board of Directors is approved.

- a. To nominate Councillor Nam, Councillor Wang and Councillor Tai

7. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker states that the Steering Committee met prior to the Council meeting, and they modified motion 13a and approved the others.

8. Reports by Committees:

- a. Executive Committee – **APPROVED**

President Wright presents the Executive Committee Report. They meet every Wednesday to go over projects. They have had full attendance, and they have been able to go over each agenda points. There have been a few key hirings: Human Resources Manager, which ensures that the organisation runs as it should; Campaigns Coordinator; Elections Coordinator, a new role to help encourage engagement around elections; Open Educational Resource Coordinator; Bar Assistant Manager; Activities Night Coordinator. She presents the motions that have been approved, some statements have been signed, and a few budgets under \$10,000 have been approved.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Membre de la galerie, Gabrielle, demande si la Coordinatrice des élections se chargera de l'engagement des étudiants pour une élection pour des postes à combler, ou aussi pour des référendums.

Réponse:

VP Finance Pizarro répond que la personne chargée des élections sera en charge de toutes les élections (référendum, nouvelles positions, etc.). Il y a une petite équipe qui s'occupe des élections.



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The Speaker notes that translations will be available on the minutes. Any official language of Canada can be used in the meetings.

Councillor Wan motions to ratify the report.

Councillor Sakajiri seconds the motion to ratify the report.

Seeing no opposition, the Executive Committee Public Report is ratified.

b. Clubs Committee – **APPROVED**

VP Student Life Koulibaly presents the Report of the Clubs Committee. She tells councillors that meetings of the Clubs Committee are weekly, and there are currently no Councillors on the Committee. They have met three times so far, and they have a Clubs Representative. She presents the student groups that have applied to become SSMU clubs. They have approved 4 and rejected others. To pass the first stage of the application, clubs need a score of 24.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

VP University Affairs Yang asks what is included on the criteria for the rubric.

Answer:

VP Student Life Koulibaly answers uniqueness of activities, sustainability, membership interest, autonomy, mandate and institutional sustainability.

Seeing no further questions, Councillor Wan motions to ratify the report.

Councillor Sakajiri seconds the motion to ratify.

Seeing no opposition, the Clubs Committee Report is ratified.

9. Executive Reports:

a. President

The Parliamentarian asks for a 2-minute recess to add late reports to the drive.



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The meeting resumes at 19:27.

President Wright presents her report. There have been a few meetings with the Board of Governors, and meetings with its various committees. She sits on the Board of Governors and on its Executive Committee in a non-voting capacity, as well as on its Ethics Committee. There are strategy points that have been raised. She has also begun working with the McGill Accessibility Strategy Group, which is working on a strategy for McGill and hoping to put a policy forward by the end of this academic year. President Wright met with the Interim Principal and the Deputy Provost about advocacy on certain initiatives, including financial security, and accessible food on campus. She has been working on the Interfaculty Relations Policy to iron out relations and figure out how SSMU and faculties want to collaborate. More information on this is coming. She has also been working on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan and an EDI Audit of the Constitution and Bylaws. As it stands, there is an EDI Working Group, who is looking for a councillor to sit in. They want to bring in a firm to give them an idea of what they should implement, to ensure procedures are up to EDI standards. She has also been working on the Grocery Program, and she wants to give groceries to up to 200 students who sign up, and it would become a long-term project that has a student fee attached. She asks councillors who want to help with this to reach out to her.

b. VP Finance

VP Finance Pizarro presents his report. He has been finishing the audits with the Accounting Team, and they will be presented to the Board in 2 weeks and to the Council in a month. He set up all club executives with their funding and bank accounts, and many have projects going on. He is working on the fee consolidation for services, and making it possible for them to rise proportionately to inflation without having a referendum question. He is revising the budget for managers and Executives, and he was supposed to present it today, but he will present it next month because there is still a lot to be done. The Funding Committee is meeting every month, and there are many interesting projects. Funding is still great, so VP Finance Pizarro encourages anyone with an idea to apply. He is also looking to change banks, because many students have reached out to him about this. The Health and Dental Committee met and looked at the Legal Protection Trial Plan and a Sexual Violence Health Plan that would cover expenses regarding this legal process. He is also looking into incorporating international students into the Legal Protection Program (LPP), which Concordia University has been doing.

c. VP Student Life

VP Student Life Koulibaly presents her report. Student groups committees have met a lot, and they have been able to approve many applications. The Services Committee had its first meeting, and updates were shared and regulations were discussed. She was able to get feedback from Activities Night, as she is currently planning its winter edition. She also got feedback from the building used, and



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what else students would like to see at Activities Night. The planning for winter Activities Night has started, and she has been dealing with equity complaints. VP Student Life Koulibaly is working on publicising student group constitutions, and on updating their website to be in compliance with Bill 96. The Mental Health Roundtable has been doing a lot of administrative work, and committees are looking into projects to improve tranquillity spaces in the library. Certain projects include the Club Portal, which is in its final stages; the Gerts Cultural Nights have started; she is still looking into the accessibility in the Internal Regulations, the draft will be done soon and consultations will take place; and there will be updates to the Food Sale and Service Policy to make everything clear. She has been working with Campus Life and Engagement on orientations, and seeing how they can integrate Activities Night into this programming. The Club Portal agreement needs to be done with McGill, because she wants to make sure that they are protecting student groups' data.

d. VP University Affairs (3)

VP University Affairs Yang presents his report. He states that he has been working on the Academic Wellness Plan, and he spoke to administrators about it. He has started dividing tasks to be able to implement the plan, and he has been working on creating syllabus guidelines that are university-wide. He is hosting a Town Hall this Friday from 4:30-6:00 PM about short-term accommodations. He expanded the number of locations in which menstrual products are offered, and he is working on the Free Menstrual Products Policy, and purchased biodegradable and reusable products. The upcoming giveaway is November 11, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. They will be tabling in the SSMU building, so attendance is expected to be lower. However, there are many more products so an effort will be made to publicise the event. He has been working on equity complaints and on the Equity Policy. He is meeting with the Dean of Students and other members of the senior administration team, as well as the Advisory Committee for the Selection of a New Principal, who is nearing the end of its mandate. SSMU has selected one, but it must be approved by the Board of Governors. The Senate Caucus is meeting regularly, and the New Royal Victoria Hospital is one of their main concerns. The various committees that VP University Affairs Yang is on have been meeting. He states that anyone who is facing food insecurity should go to the Financial Aid Office, who is there to help. Anyone who is facing bisexuality-based violence should refer themselves to the Dean of Students, because that committee is being restructured.

Question:

Councillor Voustinas asks if VP University Affairs Yang has a timeline on the potential short-term accommodation policy.

Answer:



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VP University Affairs Yang answers that there are ideas being discussed right now, and it will definitely not be done this year. A lot of it depends on the IT department, and McGill's IT department is notoriously slow.

Question:

VP Finance Pizarro asks where the Menstrual Products Team will be tabling.

Answer:

VP University Affairs Yang answers that they will be tabling on the first floor of the University Centre.

Question:

Councillor Dadulla asks if the pick-up event is for anyone, because he thought it was a registered event.

Answer:

VP University Affairs Yang answers that anyone who is a member of SSMU can pick up products.

There are no further questions on the report.

e. VP External Affairs (3)

VP External Affairs Masny states that they are doing research to be able to advocate to the federal government at the end of November, about limiting barriers to Indigenous post-secondary education. They are finalising the Bootcamp schedule, which is happening this weekend. They signed a letter about Mental Justice and hosted a Town Hall about accessibility research, for which a report will be presented. They met with the McGill administration to discuss municipal government relations. VP External Affairs Masny attended the community council, and they are working with PGSS to have a Town Hall about Bill 96, which will be November 11 at 3:00 PM at the Thompson House. They are still working on building affordable student housing, and the committee is meeting this Friday. They wrote an article and have supported mobilisation against the New Vic, and the advocates were able to halt construction. They are reviewing the Care Agreement. Divest McGill and the group that advocates against Bill 21 are still active, and there is a court case coming up next Monday. They have also advocated for Urghyr rights and mobilised against police presence in schools. Last month, they organised a vigil with Iranian students for Mahsa Amani. They have focused on Indigenous Affairs this



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month, and have helped with Every Child Matters merchandise and attending events with Indigenous Affairs. They are still hiring a few positions, and VP External Affairs Masny invites anyone interested to apply.

f. VP Internal Affairs

VP Internal Affairs Williams presents their report. She has hired a Social Media Coordinator and is looking to hire a PR Coordinator. She is developing SSMU's winter merch. SSPN had its Halloween event, which was a success. She is planning the 2023 Faculty Olympics, for which an announcement will be coming out in a month. They are planning the SSPN retreat, which is coming up soon. The First-Year Committee has been filled and their first meeting is tonight. Their VP External will be joining the next Council meeting. The McGill Alumni Engagement Council had its meeting, and she attended an Alumni event along with the other Executives. She sits on the CKUT Board, which has been meeting monthly, and their Harassment Policy was passed. She is also rewriting their onboarding documents. VP Internal Affairs Williams is going over budgets with VP Finance and reviewing policies that are up for renewal. They joined the Environment Committee with President Wright.

10. Announcements:

a. Announcement by President Wright Regarding Committee Nominations

President Wright states that a councillor is being recruited for the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group. She is also looking for 3 councillors to join SSAMOSA Committee, which deals with the long-term planning of the Society, including the Five-Year Plan. Those committee meetings are starting soon, and it would be great to have the seats filled.

11. Question Period

There are no questions.

12. Recess, Consent Items

The Speaker entertains a 5-minute recess to vote on consent items. He explains what consent items are for new councillors.

Question:

Councillor Wan asks if they still need to vote on consent items if there is only one motion on the agenda.



Answer:

The Speaker answers yes. He sends the form through the chat.

13. New Business:

- a. Motion Regarding an Interim Provision to the Internal Regulations on Elections and Referenda – **COMMITTED**

The Council session resumes at 20:01. The motion will be debated.

Councillor O'Boyle presents the motion. He states that this will amend the Internal Regulations. Under the current provisions, certain clubs are required to have a referendum every 5 years, and the media publications are not allowed to report on their referendums. CKUT dealt with issues about being able to inform people about the referendum last year, so many people abstained without really understanding what a failed referendum meant. This motion would give the media the ability to report on their referendum question(s). Councillor O'Boyle stands for questions.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Councillor Thom asks who is considered to be a member of a campaign, and if someone is part of a campaign, if they are prevented from completing their duties if they are part of another campaign. She asks if this would delay publications.

Answer:

Councillor O'Boyle answers that, under the original section, members were suspended from completing any organisational duties. Under the new provisions, the suspension would only apply to organisations outside the referendum question. He is not sure what this would look like for activities for members. He asks for a reminder of Councillor Thom's first question.

Question:

Councillor Thom asks for the definition of 'campaign member.'

Answer:

Councillor O'Boyle answers that official participants of campaigns are considered campaign members. Creating outreach material, tabling, or anything official counts.



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The Speaker reminds everyone that the speaking time for questions and answers is 1 minute, and he asks that questions be limited to one question at a time. He asks Councillors to avoid cross-talk.

Question:

Councillor Wan asks, given that the existential fee has never failed to pass, why this motion is being brought up now.

Answer:

Councillor O'Boyle answers that this is in response to the CKUT referendum passed last year, where many people abstained from voting. After talking with CKUT and voters that had abstained, they concluded that voters did not understand the referendum campaign. Giving student media publications the ability to report on referendum questions will increase understanding of the referendum and voter turnout.

Question:

Councillor Gurung asks if this motion would allow campus media to promote a referendum question that favours their organisation, or if it would allow them to explain the different questions and what voting means.

Answer:

Councillor O'Boyle answers that it depends on the media outlet being used. Under the news reporting section, the regular standards would apply, so they would be limited to objective statements. In the opinionated editorial section, there are opportunities for students to submit opinion pieces, which would give way to opinions on the referendum questions. Of course, opinion pieces would follow the regular procedure of being voted on by the editorial Board. There have been other opinion pieces about campus politics, so this would follow the same protocol.

Question:

VP Finance Pizarro asks why this motion was not presented earlier, and why media outlets were not allowed to talk about campaigns.

Answer:

Councillor O'Boyle does not know the original intention behind this clause.



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Question:

Councillor Gurung asks if this motion considers how it may be unfair for campus media to be able to advocate for their own referendum, and have the power to decline advertising other questions.

Answer:

Councillor O'Boyle answers that sections 2.1 and 2.2 were left unchanged. These sections are about abuses of power, and they go into specifics about positions. Publications would follow the regular editorial process, so they must trust that student media has the best interests of reporting in mind.

Question:

Councillor Wan asks if the abstention rates for the CKUT referendum question were abnormally high with only the CKUT question, or if abstention rates were high overall. If it was more of an overall issue, he asks if this points to low voter turnout or a misunderstanding of abstaining from voting.

Answer:

Councillor O'Boyle answers that he does not have data on other referendum questions. The concern arose after speaking with members of CKUT after the referendum question, and realising that it was miscommunicated. The repercussions of the failure of the referendum question were not made clear.

The Speaker entertains a debate period.

Councillor Gurung states that it seems that this policy allows campus media to report in favour of their own media services. This is a conflict of interest, and could violate SSMU's Conflict of Interest Policy. To her understanding, most media has a Board of Directors who votes on what gets published. If the people on the Board get to vote in favour of publishing a referendum question are also those who directly benefit from the passing of the referendum question, it seems like it is misaligned with the policy. A policy that allows campus media to report on what the referendum questions are or a policy that would require them to report on all questions.

Councillor Dadulla states that this Motion would allow media organisations to aid other campaigns, and he thinks that this change should be edited.

Councillor O'Boyle explains that the wording speaks of referendum questions that specifically relate to groups. He adds, in terms of Councillor Gurung's point, that these publications are not mandated to



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make political statements. They endorse candidates every year, and this goes through the regular editorial process. He mentions that there is someone from the Tribune here, so they could speak on this matter better.

Member of the Gallery, Madison McLauchlan, (Editor-in-Chief of the McGill Tribune) supports this motion, because section 2.4 makes it difficult for organisations like CKUT or the [McGill] Tribune to be able to disseminate information about what results would entail. The editorial opinion concern is understood, because they do run endorsements about other referendum questions.

Councillor Gurung states that a policy that allows campus media to report on all information about referendum questions would be more appropriate, rather than allowing campus media to advocate especially for their question. This might end up being a moot point, because campus media generally reports on all questions, but she thinks that a policy like this could be problematic in a policy sense. Re-working this policy to mandate campus media to report on all referendum questions or to make the language more neutral would alleviate some of these issues.

Councillor Wan states that, for most referendum questions from last year, there is 17-50% abstention rate, and for CKUT there was a 26% abstention rate. He asks how many of these abstentions are related to misunderstandings of abstaining. Since this is in line with other questions, he asks why they are proposing this motion now, and what it could do to address abstention rates.

The Speaker states that he will take motions after the next 3 speakers.

Councillor O'Boyle states that campus media is expected to report on happenings on campus, and the issue around CKUT's referendum question was about the follow-up afterwards, and why people decided to abstain. Overall, there was a misunderstanding and CKUT felt there was a miscommunication on behalf of the referendum campaign. By using their own platform, they could clear the issue up. They do not have any prospective data on clarification.

Member of the Gallery, Gabrielle Genest (Editor-in-Chief of Le Délit), highlights the division between news coverage and opinion pieces. They state that there are strict standards to ensure that subjective content is not put into news coverages. They add that their main interest is not breaking regulations, which is especially important for Le Délit, who has a referendum coming up in 2 weeks. Their concern is ensuring that no regulations are broken, and the current regulation is very limitative.

Question:



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VP University Affairs Yang asks why section 2.4 was reworded, because he thinks that the point of the section was to prevent biased students from using their position to advertise a referendum question. He gives an example to support his question.

Answer:

Councillor Reed states that the logic of conflicts of interest does not really apply in this case. In the real world, fee levies and publications advocate for their own existence. It would be 'silly' to forbid a publication from advocating for its own existence. Reed acknowledges that some organisations have more resources than others, and these have a duty towards content integrity. Councillor Reed asks to see some clarity on the internal regulations that will apply to an organisation that is meant to be objective.

Councillor O'Boyle states that 'campus media organisations' in section 2.4 refer to the 4 campus media organisations.

The Speaker states that he will ask for any motions after a few speakers. From there, any motion can be presented. If there are no motions or a motion to extend the debate period, they can continue debating.

Question:

Councillor Gurung asks if the debate period has been exhausted.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that they have, but it will be automatically extended if there are no motions.

Question:

Councillor Gurung asks if there is a need to motion for an extension.

Answer:

The Speaker answers no, but if there is a motion to extend, the mover can specify the duration of the extension. If not, the debate period will continue for the next 5 speakers.

Councillor Gurung motions to extend the debate period by seven (7) minutes. Councillor Wan seconds this motion.



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Seeing no opposition, the debate period is extended by 7 minutes.

Councillor Gurung believes that some of the wording of the motion should be reconsidered, to require campus media to publish on all referendum questions equally. She asks if any campus media are under SSMU's purview, because in that case, this Motion might violate SSMU's Conflict of Interest Policy. She asks if any campus media members could say whether they think their upcoming referendum questions are at risk of failing, or if tabling this motion would not hurt their upcoming question.

Member of the Gallery,, McLauchlan, states that the Tribune is an independent student group.

Member of the Gallery, Genest, states that Le Délit is scrambling to find ways to reach out to people about the referendum, since the newspaper is the main form of communication. The regulations would not even allow them to use their own newspapers' social media to share content about the referendum question. This is the first time that they are doing a referendum with SSMU, and they are less subjected to this regulation. This limits their ability to campaign. Genest is very concerned right now, since Le Délit is the only francophone newspaper on campus.

Councillor Wan states that he is confused about the wording of section 2.3. It could use clarification. Section 2.4 also should clarify which campaign is being referred to.

Councillor Gurung states that she shares Councillor Wan's concerns, and such an important motion should not be amended on the spot. It should undergo further consultation and be amended properly. Even if campus newspapers are independent student groups, if they are running their referendum questions with SSMU they are subject to the Internal Regulations, so Councillor Gurung is unsure if it would be governmentally sound to pass a policy that might contradict another SSMU policy. She thinks this motion should be tabled, to be amended and consulted on further.

Member of the Gallery, McLauchlan, states that having an online presence is important for newspapers. They ask if there is anything that prevents campus media from using their social media accounts to promote the referendum question.

Councillor Wan states that he cannot answer that question. He asks when the referendum period ends, and when the next Legislative Council meeting is. This way, they will know whether this motion can be amended with enough time.

Member of the Gallery, Genest, states that the campaign begins November 8, and the voting period spans November 14 - 18. They believe that this is the last chance to do anything. In Le Délit's case, tabling the motion will prevent them from campaigning to the fullest extent.



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The Speaker states that they have reached the limit of the extension.

Councillor Wan motions to extend the debate period by two (2) minutes. Councillor Sakajiri seconds the motion to extend.

Seeing no opposition, the debate period is extended by 2 minutes.

Councillor Wan states that there is a sense of urgency to get these provisions passed, and another argument to make things procedurally correct. He points out that the CKUT vote passed with a 67/33% majority, so it was not close even with abstentions, which don't really affect voter turnout. He thinks that delaying the motion is a good idea, to ensure that it does not violate the Constitution.

Councillor Gurung echoes Councillor Wan's sentiment. In general, only controversial questions on the referendum fail. This highlights the problem with bringing up a motion at the last minute. It is quite a bad practice to bring something up that is not sound without a generous timeline. Despite the urgency of the current situation, this has future implications, and she does not think they should vote simply out of urgency.

The Speaker states that they have reached the limit of the extension.

Question:

Councillor O'Boyle asks if there is any way that they can amend the motion and still have it passed before the referendum period. He suggests an email approval.

Answer:

The Speaker states that they have established some new clauses on email motions, so it is possible for this motion to be modified and sent for approval by email. Amendments could also be written up and presented now, to approve the motion tonight. The motion could also be committed to a committee to look over the motion and then send it for email approval or approval at the next meeting.

Question:

Councillor O'Boyle states that he would be amenable to amendments being put forward to approve the motion tonight.

Answer:

Councillor Khamis motions to extend the debate period by 5 minutes.



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VP University Affairs Yang seconds the motion to extend the debate period.

Seeing no opposition, the debate period is extended by 5 minutes.

Question:

Councillor Khamis states that she understands the urgency of the motion, but also understands the issues with passing it out of urgency. She asks why consultations were not done with SSMU Executives or Governance, to ensure that this does not conflict with the Conflict of Interest Policy (COI) Policy.

Answer:

Councillor O'Boyle answers that consultations were done with the Governance Coordinator, who helped write the motion and looked through it.

Councillor Gurung highlights that all policies must go through the Board of Directors. She cautions against making last-minute amendments, because if there are structural issues in the motion, the policy might be struck down at the Board level. It would be in the best interests of everyone to take 4-5 days to amend the motion, and then present it by email. This would ensure that there is enough time to reflect on concerns and make proper amendments.

Councillor Reed states that, if this was looked over by the Governance Manager, they would be willing to trust that this does not conflict with other policies. They do not see the logic of the conflict of interest, but invite any councillors to clarify what they mean.

VP Student Life Koulibaly asks if this was sent for review to look through the content of the motion or for its structure. Another conflict of interest was brought up in consultation with VP Student Life, because the first amendment is related to Clubs and Services, which fall under her portfolio. She clarifies that only TVM was consulted.

Councillor Dadulla states that the concern is that people are not well-informed enough. There should be no problem with this, but this change will influence students' votes.

Councillor Gurung states that the issue of COIs arises when campus media groups and editorial boards vote on the approval of articles about their own questions. These are the people who directly benefit



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from the question being approved, and who vote on approving articles on other referendum questions that they do not directly benefit from. It is unfair, and creates a less-levelled playing field for groups to advocate for their referendum question.

Councillor Thom states that by making a committee that would meet early next week, they could approve this motion by mid-week. This would satisfy the time crunch for this motion.

Councillor O'Boyle states that TVM was the only service listed because the other 3 media outlets were involved in the writing of the motion. The Chief Electoral Officer, who reviewed the motion, had a concern about creating an unfair advantage to media outlets. After Councillor O'boyle asked them to look at sections 2.1 and 2.2, they responded by saying that this section would act as a safeguard to potential abuses. Councillor O'boyle would be amenable to Councillor Thom's proposition, as long as the motion can be approved before November 8.

Councillor Reed states that the term 'conflict of interest' should not be used in this case, because there is no COI that would violate the Internal Regulations. They agree that these organisations have more resources and can better promote their referendum questions, and believe that clarification should be added to the Motion. Campaigns can post counter-facts, and there needs to be higher accountability.

Councillor Gurung motions to call the question.

Councillor Reed seconds the motion to call the question.

Councillor O'Boyle asks if this motion is called to question, if a committee to review the motion can still be formed.

The Speaker states that the motion will either be approved or disapproved, and will need to be re-presented to be passed.

Councillor O'Boyle motions to table this motion with the intention of revising the motion and presenting it by email before November 8.

The Speaker states that this would be a motion to commit, and Councillor O'Boyle should specify the date they will meet and what they will do.

Question:

Councillor Wan asks if this supersedes the motion to call the question.

Answer:



The Speaker answers that both motions will be presented at the same time.

Question:

Councillor O'Boyle motions to commit the motion to a committee to meet on November 7, 2022. He asks if he can form the committee.

Answer:

The Speaker answers yes.

Question:

Councillor O'Boyle asks who wants to join the committee.

Answer:

Councillor Gurung, Councillor Thom, Councillor Dadulla, Councillor Wan, VP University Affairs Yang, representatives from McGill Daily, Le Delit, Tribune and CKUT join the committee.

Question:

Councillor Gurung asks, if this does not pass, if another motion to have a committee review this motion would be possible. She asks if a motion to table the motion would be better.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that if the motion does not pass, they cannot form a committee on the motion unless the rules are suspended. If the question is called and the motion passes, it can't be changed. If it does not pass, it has to be re-presented at another meeting after being modified. The motion to commit allows the motion to be changed and re-presented.

Question:

Councillor Gurung asks if the motion to call the question and the motion to commit are not in conflict with each other. If the motion does not pass, they could suspend the rules to create the committee.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that the two motions are in conflict, only one can pass.



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Councillor Gurung withdraws her motion to call the question.

Member of the Gallery, Genest, asks if Le Délit could also be included in the motion. The Speaker states that they will add Le Délit.

Councillor O'Boyle states that he meant DPS as a whole.

Councillor Wan motions to call the question.

VP University Affairs Yang seconds the motion to call the question.

The Speaker entertains a vote on Councillor O'boyle's motion to commit. He reminds Members of the Gallery that they cannot vote.

Councillor Wan retracts his motion to call the question, as he wanted to call the question on the motion to commit.

The Speaker answers that the question cannot be called on subsidiary motions.

- i. Motion to commit the motion to a committee to meet on November 7, 2022 consisting of Councillor O'Boyle, Councillor Gurung, Councillor Thom, Councillor Dadulla, Councillor Wan, VP University Affairs Yang, representatives from McGill Daily, Le Delit, Tribune and CKUT – **APPROVED**

With 17 votes in favour, this subsidiary motion passes. A committee will be formed to review the motion. It will be presented by email.

The Speaker asks the committee to send him the reviewed motion by Tuesday so that he can send the voting form.

- b. Notice of Motion Regarding Free Menstrual Health Products on Campus

The Speaker states that a Notice of Motion is a presentation of an upcoming motion, and does not require a vote. There is no question or debate period. It is mandatory to notify the Council of motions before presenting them, if the motion concerns a policy.

VP University Affairs Yang states that, when the Free Menstrual Health Products initiative was launched in 2016, a motion was passed to describe the project and attach a fee to it. It explained why it was necessary, and talked about the fee and initiative. In the last few years, the fee passed, but the policy



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has expired. VP University Affairs Yang wants to present a new policy with a few amendments that are more in line with sustainability.

The Speaker states that they have reached the time limit for the meeting, but he will entertain the final point.

14. Adjournment: **21:01**

The Speaker declares the meeting adjourned at 21:01.

Risann Wright, SSMU President

APPROVED