



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

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MOTION REGARDING THE CREATION OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE 2023-03-09

Submitted for: 2023-03-09

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2023-03-09-008
Moved by:	Val Masny <i>Vice-President (External Affairs)</i>	Current Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Emily Thom <i>Law Representative</i>		

Issue

While in the past the External Affairs Committee has existed as a way of better connecting the External Affairs portfolio with both Legislative Council and the student body at large, it has not existed for several years. This committee. As a result the Society's membership has had less impact and involvement in the work and plans of the External Affairs portfolio. In order to allow the External Affairs portfolio to adequately engage students in planning, decision-making, mobilization, and advocacy, there is a need to reinstate the External Affairs Committee.

Background and Rationale

With the understanding that it is not realistic to expect the SSMU Vice-President (External Affairs) and their staff alone to be able to identify and advocate against social issues impacting Society members without consultation and collaboration with said membership, there is a need for an organized body through which that can occur.

The External Affairs Committee would confront historical and ongoing inequities, as well as social justice initiatives at the University through institutional and governmental advocacy on governance and policy, and active engagement and public education, in a manner consistent with the Society's relevant policies. The committee would also be responsible for ensuring the interests and needs of the Society's memberships are adequately represented in the External Affairs portfolio.



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Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with the mandate of the Vice-President (External Affairs) outlined in the Constitution, “to mobilize students on positions and Policy of the Society and assist in the coordination of student-run political campaigns”¹. Further it also aligns with the Council Transparency Policy² as a way of furthering the accessibility, accountability, and transparency of work within the Society.

Consultations Completed

This motion was created in consultation with the External Affairs Commissioners and the recommendations from exit reports of previous Vice-Presidents (External Affairs) about the logistics and effectiveness of the proposed committee. Feedback from all Vice-Presidents (External Affairs) of the undergraduate student faculty and school associations was requested.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

This motion poses no risk factors, but has resource implications. Notably, this motion will require the time and labour of the External Affairs Commissioners to facilitate and chair the committee as well as the continued support of the Vice-President (External Affairs).

Should this motion fail to be adopted, the External Affairs Committee will not be created. This will limit the involvement of Council and students at large in the work of the External Affairs portfolio as well as the ability of the portfolio to adequately represent the needs and wishes of membership.

Sustainability Considerations

The creation of the External Affairs Committee would increase the sustainability of the External Affairs portfolio by “engaging students and student groups, connecting people who share the same ideas for change and coordinating projects with multiple stakeholders”, as outlined in the Sustainability Policy³.

¹ [SSMU Constitution](#) 10.14. Vice-President (External Affairs)

² [Council Transparency Policy](#)

³ [Sustainability Policy](#) p.2



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Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If passed, the Committee Terms of Reference would be updated to include the description in Appendix A. Beginning in the Fall 2023 semester, the External Affairs Commissioner with the support of the Vice-President (External Affairs) and Governance Manager would contact named members and recruit members-at-large so that the External Affairs Committee can begin fulfilling their mandate.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the Terms of Reference in Appendix A;

Be it resolved, that the External Affairs Committee becomes a committee of the Legislative Council;

Be it further resolved, that the Legislative Council recommend the ratification of the creation of External Affairs Committee terms of reference to the SSMU Board of Directors at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

Results of the Vote

In favour (UNANIMOUS)
Opposed ()
Abstain ()



Appendix A : External Affairs Committee Terms of Reference

3. External Affairs Committee

3.1. Oversight

The External Affairs Committee will be a committee of the Legislative Council.

3.2. General

The External Affairs Committee will confront historical and ongoing inequities, as well as social justice initiatives at the University and beyond through institutional and governmental advocacy on governance and policy, and active engagement and public education, in a manner consistent with the Society's relevant policies. The committee is also responsible for ensuring the interests and needs of the Society's memberships are adequately represented in the External Affairs portfolio.

3.3. Responsibilities

- Advise the Vice-President (External) on current issues relating to their portfolio
- Support and mobilize for the campaigns of SSMU relating to external issues, including but not limited to post-secondary education policy, environmental issues and human rights issues.
- Review and make recommendations on SSMU's affiliations with Provincial, Federal, or International student associations.
- Recommend SSMU positions on issues relating to tuition and education policy, environmental and social justice issues, and other relevant current events.
- Research topics related to External Affairs mandates and campaigns
- Set budgetary priorities for the External Affairs and Campaigns Budgets.
- Take on other projects as deemed appropriate by the Vice-President (External).
- Ensure that the entire External Affairs team is being held accountable to completing mandated tasks, and documenting the completion of those tasks to ensure institutional memory for future SSMU membership.



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3.4. Membership

The External Affairs Committee will consist of the following membership:

- One or both External Affairs Commissioner (Committee Chair, non-voting);
- the Vice-President (External Affairs, non-voting);
- two (2) Councillors;
- at least one (1) representative from every associated political campaign group
- Two (2) Members-at-Large;
- The Vice-President (External Affairs) of each undergraduate student faculty and school association, as well as department association if interested; and
- Governance Manager (non-voting) .

3.4.1. Alterations to the Membership

The External Affairs Committee may alter its composition at its discretion in order to fulfill its mandate.

3.5. Meetings

The External Affairs Committee will meet monthly unless an exception is made by the External Affairs Commissioner. The Committee will be given a full week's notice before a special meeting is convened.

3.6. Quorum

Quorum for meetings of the External Affairs Committee will be a simple majority of its active members.

3.7. Reporting

The External Affairs Committee will report to the Legislative Council and once per semester.