



## Bureau du président du conseil de l'ÀÉUM

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 AN INTERIM PROVISION TO THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS & REFERENDA (IR-02 and IR-05) 2023-10-12

Submitted for: 2023-10-12

<b>Submitted to:</b>	SSMU Legislative Council	<b>Document no.:</b>	LEG-PUB-MOT-2023-10-12-002
<b>Moved by:</b>	Liam Gaither <i>VP External Affairs</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>	Keith Andre Baybayon <i>Arts Representative</i>		

## Issue

This motion presents an Interim Provision for approval of the Legislative Council and the Board of Directors, in order to temporarily change (for a one-year period) the regulations regarding campaigning for the SSMU Base Fee.

## Background and Rationale

As described in the Internal Regulations of Governance-01, section 10: "10.1. [...] An Interim Provision may be adopted where a change or supplement to the Internal Regulations is necessary to provide for the proper functioning of the Society, and where the notice requirement is prohibitive or where the measure is temporary. In such cases, any member of the Legislative Council, Board of Directors, or the Chief Electoral Officer may make a motion to introduce an Interim Provision.

10.2. Adoption An Interim Provision may only be adopted by a resolution passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Legislative Council or a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors."

The purpose of this Interim Provision is to enact immediate change to reflect SSMU's operations, and to be able to have a temporary change to the Internal Regulations of Elections of Referenda, for a one year period.



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### Alignment with Mission

These interim changes would provide clearer boundaries for SSMU Staff and Executives' roles in base fee campaigns, leading to broader overall engagement with the democratic process in the association as well as in the company.

### Consultations Completed

Consultations have been completed with the Executive Committee, the Governance Manager, and Elections SSMU. These consultations have steered the proposed amendments such that they may be helpful to Executives in their responsibilities while being fair from an electoral perspective.

### Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Several risk factors should be considered in this motion. First, the Society would see increased expenditures for base fee campaigns when they arise due to the raised spending limit. Second, the proposed changes would allow for SSMU staff & resources to be used in SSMU base fee campaigns. Lastly, the introduction of limits to the number of referendum questions per semester may slow the rate of progress & change within SSMU's organization, as groups may have to wait before putting their question to referendum. A hierarchy of referendum question types is proposed in the appendix.

### Sustainability Considerations

This motion carries no important considerations on sustainability at this time.

### Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion pass, the motion would provide clearer guidelines and responsibilities for SSMU Executives during a SSMU base fee campaign. Specific interim changes to IR-04 and IR-05 would also impose limits for other groups wishing to bring referendum questions. It is the responsibility of Elections SSMU to verify that these regulations have been thoroughly respected throughout referendums to come.

These interim provisions to the IRs would last for one (1) year, after which they may either be brought back for renewal or expire.

Should this motion fail to be adopted, any SSMU base fee increase campaign brought by Executives may be deemed more than likely to fail.



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## Motion or Resolution for Approval

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Legislative Council approves the interim provisions to the Internal Regulations of Elections & Referenda as described in Appendix A.

## Results of the Vote

In favour ()  
Opposed ()  
Abstain ()

APPROVED



## Appendix A : Interim Provisions to the IRs of Elections and Referenda

To be inserted into the Internal Regulations:

### IR-02: General

6.4 For Referendums only, a specific nomination period of at least seven (7) days for “No” campaigns shall be implemented following the initial question nomination period.

### IR-05: Campaign

#### 1.8 Exception - SSMU Base Fee Campaign

In the event of a question on an increase to the SSMU base fee, SSMU Executives and associated Staff may serve as the relevant resources to aid the campaign. Campaign materials for distribution to Members shall go through the same process for expense approvals. This exception shall include specific amendments to the following areas:

- 1.3 Campaigning

In the event of a SSMU Base Fee campaign, campaigning may be carried out by members and associated SSMU staff.

- 1.9 Campaigning Areas

- In the case where Elections SSMU polling stations are located on SSMU-owned property, campaigning must not interfere with freedom of vote and can be moderated by the CEO.

- 2.2 Association Executives

- In the event of a SSMU base fee campaign, SSMU executives may use the same resources and knowledge as in their regular positions as executives. The Chief Electoral Officer reserves the right to monitor and moderate the use of these resources.

- 7.1 Maximum Campaign Spending

- In the event of a SSMU base fee increase campaign led by Executives, the spending limit of \$300 shall not apply. During the nomination period, the SSMU Executives shall propose a campaign budget to the Chief Electoral Officer. The CEO reserves the right to impose a different expense limit for this type of campaign.

- Should there be any confusion on the exceptions for executives during a base fee increase campaign, the executives may refer to the Chief Electoral Officer for further guidance. Changes to these aforementioned exceptions may be enacted at the Chief Electoral Officer's discretion.



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### **2.3 Abuse of Positions**

Anyone holding a position in any Club, Service, or Independent Student Group, 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.

APPROVED