



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AEUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

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MOTION REGARDING THE TRANSFER OF SUSTAINABILITY & OPERATIONS PORTFOLIO JURISDICTION TO THE VICE PRESIDENT SUSTAINABILITY & OPERATIONS 2024-06-20

Submitted for: 2024-10-03

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council

Document no.: LEG-PUB-MOT-2024-10-03-001

Moved by: Dymetri Taylor
President

**Current
Status:**

- FOR APPROVAL
- APPROVED
- POSTPONED
- COMMITTED
- NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Ben Weissman
Arts Councillor

Issue

Several governing documents still have sustainability and operations under other Executives or portfolios. This motion rectifies that issue by placing them back under the Vice President of Sustainability and Operations.

Background and Rationale

When reading through the Committee Terms of Reference, Consultation Policy, Accessibility Policy, Indigenous Solidarity Policy, Sustainability Policy and Sustainable Development Goals, there are mentions of the Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations). However, they're often under the purview of other Officers or portfolios of the society rather than the Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations).

Approving this motion would reassign these portfolio powers back under the Vice-President of Sustainability and Operations.



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Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with the SSMU's Constitution, which stipulates that the Vice-President of Sustainability and Operations would manage the use and coordinate the physical development of the Shatner Centre, oversee the management of the Society's business operations; represent the Members on University bodies in charge of space and operational planning; and operationalise the Society's commitment to environmental sustainability and physical accessibility.

Consultations Completed

Vice-President Sustainability and Operations:

- Saw no issues with the motion and approved the changes and amendments to the governing documents.

Governance Manager:

- Approved

Policy and Advocacy Coordinator:

- Approved

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The issues arising from passing this motion consist of reorganising all touched-upon sections and designating or placing the subject(s) underneath the Vice-President of Sustainability and Operations' portfolio. This will require the Office of the Governance Manager to update all documents; however, this is necessary for efficient conduct at SSMU.

If this motion were not passed, these sections that should be under the Vice-President of Sustainability and Operations would continue to exist under other portfolios and serve as a potential obstacle when coordinating efforts for the University Centre.

Sustainability Considerations

Matters concerning sustainability would be transferred to the Officer tasked with overseeing Sustainability at the SSMU, allowing for a more effective allocation of resources towards Sustainability.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If approved, the next steps would be as follows:

- a) The Vice-President of Sustainability & Operations shall sit on the Environmental Committee, replacing the President;



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- b) The Vice-President of Sustainability & Operations shall have to be consulted on all motions concerning the Society's Operations;
- c) The Vice-President of Sustainability & Operations shall represent Sustainability stakeholders to the SSMU;
- d) The Office of the Vice-President of Sustainability & Operations shall ensure that the accessibility of spaces overseen by the SSMU is maintained and actively improved upon;
- e) The Office of the Vice-President of Sustainability & Operations shall ensure that there is a visible Indigenous presence in the Shatner Centre;
- f) The Vice-President of Sustainability & Operations shall be responsible for ensuring environmental leadership;
- g) The SDG plan shall be transferred from the President's portfolio to that of the Vice-President of Sustainability and Operations;
- h) The Governance Manager and Communications Manager will make the necessary changes to the SSMU governing documents and website.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approves the amendments proposed through Appendix A through G.

Results of the Vote

- In favour (UNANIMOUS)
- Opposed ()
- Abstain ()



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Appendix A : [Committee Terms of Reference Amendments](#)

4. Environment Committee

4.4 Membership

The Environment Committee shall consist of:

- a. the Sustainability Commissioner(s) (Committee Chairs);
- b. the **Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations)**;
- c. one (1) Councillor;
- d. a minimum of five (5) Members at Large; and
- e. one (1) representative from each environmental undergraduate student group, as determined by the Sustainability Commissioner(s).



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Appendix B : Consultation Policy Amendments

Appendix A - Identifying Stakeholders

For motions concerning the Society's operations, the following individuals shall be consulted:

- Vice-President (Sustainability & Operations) (mandatory)
- Vice-President (Student Life) (mandatory)
- Vice-President (Internal Affairs) (mandatory)
- Student Life Operations Director (strongly recommended)
- Building Director (strongly recommended)
- General Manager (recommended)

List of Stakeholders:

President

Sustainability

- Sustainability Commissioners
- Environment Committee
- McGill Office of Sustainability
- McGill Advisory Council on Sustainability
- Campus Crops Coordinator (Daycare Specialist)
- Campus Crops Coordinator (Communication and Events Specialist)

Sustainability and Operations

Sustainability

- Sustainability Commissioners
- Environment Committee
- McGill Office of Sustainability
- McGill Advisory Council on Sustainability
- Campus Crops Coordinator (Daycare Specialist)
- Campus Crops Coordinator (Communication and Events Specialist)



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Appendix C: [Accessibility Policy Amendments](#)

7. Physical Access

The SSMU, through the Office of the **Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations)** and the Building and Operations Management Committee (BOMCOM), will ensure that the accessibility of spaces overseen by the SSMU is maintained and actively improved upon to ensure the continuance of access for individuals with disabilities.

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Appendix D : [Indigenous Solidarity Policy Amendments](#)

4.5 Physical Campus Environment

The SSMU shall advocate for the development of physical and symbolic representations on campus that reflect Indigenous histories and continued presence on the land, specifically that of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg peoples. Such efforts shall be undertaken with the goal of educating the community-at-large as well as developing spaces that facilitate the comfort, well-being, and cultural activities of Indigenous students. Furthermore, all activities should account for diversity in artistic and cultural representations; the societal prevalence of pan-Indigenous stereotypes; and the role of self-identification in Indigeneity and cultural expression.

4.5.1 The Office of the **Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations)** shall ensure that there is a visible Indigenous presence in the University Centre building. This includes, but is not limited to, art displays produced by Indigenous artists; room and building naming, and creating or modifying spaces to accommodate cultural activities, such as smudging.

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Appendix E : [Sustainability Policy Amendments](#)

9.2 Accountability within the SSMU Executive

The SSMU Executive shall report on all progress achieved within the purview of this policy to Council once in the Fall Semester and twice in the Winter semester with support from the Sustainability Commissioners and leadership from the **Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations)**.

9.1.2 Final Report of the Academic Year

The final report of the academic year shall constitute an annual report compiled by the **Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations)**, Sustainability Commissioners and Environment committee, and shall include:

- Recommendations approved by the previous years' Council
- Work achieved that academic year and up-to -date campus initiatives
- SSMU's current organizational capacity in relation to this policy
- Updated implementation plan and benchmarking rubrics
- Recommended goals of the following academic year

The **Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations)**, with support from the Sustainability Coordinator and student staff, shall oversee an annual review of sustainability goals and benchmarks in order to adapt the SSMU's efforts in light of changes in organizational capacity and campus and societal shifts. The Sustainability Coordinator will lead a process of developing detailed implementation plans and benchmarking rubrics to ensure measurable, effective change; this shall not be allowed to detract from the pursuit of qualitative or difficult-to-measure efforts.



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Appendix A - Responsibilities of the Specific Positions and Committees within the SSMU

President

- ~~The President is responsible for ensuring environmental leadership.~~
- The President, along with the VP University Affairs, share responsibilities for advocating for stronger adherence to sustainability policies and pursuit of relevant actions to the McGill Administration. In the event of the creation of new committees pertaining specifically to sustainability, such as those involving administration, the President should advocate for the most qualified student to serve as the representative. ~~Oftentimes, this will be the Sustainability Commissioner.~~
- The President is the official link to faculty-specific undergrad associations and to the First Year Council and Inter-Residence Council.
- ~~The President oversees the work of the two (2) Sustainability Commissioners~~

VP Sustainability and Operations

- The Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) oversees the work of the two (2) Sustainability Commissioners
- The Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) is responsible for ensuring environmental leadership



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Appendix G : Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) Plan Amendments

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

The SSMU SDG plan aims to achieve the goals of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by a set of different actions and activities, that can include but are not limited to:

- The Office of the Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations) will manage the SSMU Grocery program.
- The Office of the Vice-President (Student Life) may provide support for student group food security initiatives such as the Midnight Kitchen.
- The Vice-President (Operations and Sustainability) may support the restoration of campus crops and bolster their setup.
- The Office of the Vice-President (External) may provide support and raise awareness around volunteering opportunities in Montreal food banks.
- The Vice-President (University Affairs) may advocate to McGill University for cultural meal options on campus, as well as the expansion of vegetarian and vegan offerings.

8. Reporting and Accountability

The SDG plan will exist under the Vice-President (Sustainability & Operation)'s portfolio. As such, the SSMU Vice-President (Sustainability & Operations) will report the activities of the SDG plan to the Legislative Council once a year, during the Winter semester