



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

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Students' Society of McGill University

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MOTION REGARDING THE REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT TAYLOR

Submitted for: 2024-12-05

Submitted to: SSMU General Assembly

Document no.: GA-PUB-MOT-2024-12-05-001

Moved by: John Vogel
SSMU Member

Current Status:

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

Seconded by: Kynda Nashif
SSMU Member

Issue

This motion seeks to remove President Taylor from office in accordance with section 10.6 of the SSMU Constitution under grounds of impropriety;¹ violation of the provisions of this Constitution or its Internal Regulations; and delinquency of duties.² These characteristics have been demonstrated through his mishandling of a strike motion submitted in Support of Palestinian Liberation, misrepresentation of legal constraints, and failure to uphold democratic processes guaranteed under the SSMU Constitution.

¹ defined as a failure to observe standards or show due honesty or modesty

² defined as neglect of one's duty



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Background and Rationale

Members of the SSMU student body, along with the Political Campaigns Coordinator, have documented a pattern of misconduct by President Taylor in his handling of the Palestinian Student Solidarity Strike motion during November 2024. Specifically:

1. On November 5, 2024 students submitted the first draft of a [motion](#) for a Special Strike General Assembly in solidarity with Palestine
2. On November 6, 2024 the steering committee denied the facilitation of a GA due to alleged [injunction](#) constraints around the Policy Against Genocide in Palestine.
3. On November 8, 2024, in response to efforts from the Political Campaigns Coordinator to solicit a comprehensive response from the SSMU, President Taylor falsely claimed that the SSMU Steering Committee could not proceed with a Special General Assembly for a strike vote due to an injunction against the [Policy Against Genocide in Palestine](#) (PAGIP), misrepresenting legal constraints on SSMU's operations ([Appendix A](#)) by stating the following:
 - A. “The necessary language to be changed would result in the Strike no longer having anything to do with Palestine.” ([Appendix B](#))
4. On November 8, 2024, despite a clear explanation from the Political Campaigns Coordinator ([Appendix C](#)) that the injunction's scope was limited and did not prevent consideration of a strike motion, President Taylor continued to obstruct the democratic process ([Appendix D](#)).
5. When asked to meet with students on two occasions to consult on changes to the language of the motion, President Taylor denied or ignored the request. Furthermore, when asked to present an accurate legal interpretation of a strike



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vote, Taylor continued to misrepresent consultations with legal counsel by alleging that “.....they [legal counsel] have informed us that actions such as striking would be against the injunction several times.”

6. When finally acknowledging his error on November 21, 2024, President Taylor admitted to making "incorrect assumptions" and "misrepresenting the SSMU's legal limitations," ([Appendix E](#)) writing, “I failed to adequately consult our legal counsel or my fellow executives before making such a definitive statement.” ([Appendix F](#)) At this point, 16 days after the motion was first submitted, a strike was no longer possible due to the continued obstruction of these processes and constrained timeline.

This pattern of behavior violates the President’s responsibility to “enforce the Constitution” as stipulated in Section 10.11 of the SSMU Constitution. This corresponds to failures to fulfill

- Section 13.2, which guarantees the right of students to call a Special General Assembly
- Section 13.7, which specifically outlines provisions for Strike General Assemblies

President Taylor’s behavior also indicated a pattern of ‘impropriety’ and a ‘delinquency of duties’ as stipulated in Section 10.6 as grounds for removal from Office through repeated misrepresentations of the SSMU’s legal obligations and refusal to meet with students to consult further steps.

Alignment with Mission

The SSMU Constitution commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights and social justice. The recently ratified [Policy on Harmful Military Technology](#) affirms the SSMU's continued duty to



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support student activism against weapons manufacturing companies. The SSMU President Taylor's actions have actively undermined these principles by obstructing legitimate student organizing efforts and misrepresenting legal constraints to prevent democratic decision-making.

Consultations Completed

Consultations have been conducted between strike organizers, the Political Campaigns Coordinator, as well as the Steering Committee.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Failure to remove President Taylor would set a harmful precedent where executive officers are not held accountable for obstruction of democratic processes and neglect of constitutional duties. This would severely undermine SSMU's ability to function as a representative student organization.

Sustainability Considerations

The integrity and sustainability of SSMU's democratic processes require accountability when officers fail to uphold their constitutional duties or actively misrepresent information to the student body.



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Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion pass, President Taylor shall be removed from office pending a successful ratification. His duties shall fall to other members of the Executive in the interim period pending by-elections.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

WHEREAS, President Taylor deliberately misrepresented legal constraints to prevent consideration of a legitimate strike motion;

WHEREAS, President Taylor admitted to making incorrect assumptions and failing to properly consult legal counsel before making definitive statements;

WHEREAS, President Taylor's actions violated multiple sections of the SSMU Constitution regarding democratic processes and executive duties;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Special General Assembly removes Dymetri Taylor from his position as SSMU President.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, should the Special General Assembly motion be approved, an online ratification of this Motion for a period of seven days, at the earliest discretion of Elections SSMU, will be sent to the SSMU Membership, requiring 10% quorum.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(305)
Opposed	(45)
Abstain	(9)



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Appendix A



Dymetri Taylor

to me, Steering ▾

Fri, Nov 8, 12:43 PM



Good afternoon, all,

Before I get into the heart of the matter, there is a misunderstanding about what SSMU's Steering Committee evaluates a motion on. It takes into consideration all of the SSMU's governing documents, including the fact that, per our governing documents, we're bound by Quebec law. Whether that be the act regarding the accreditation and financing of student associations or otherwise. When it is very clear that a motion is against the law, the steering committee will reject it, as is the case with the proposed strike for the following reasons:

As per the injunction, which can be found [here](#), the SSMU is not permitted to ratify or take any actions that the Policy calls for.

Two of the calls in the Policy Against Genocide in Palestine are:

"Demand that our student union, the SSMU, make an immediate public statement condemning the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza, and reaffirming its solidarity with Palestinian and Arab students."

and

"Demand that our student union commit **to a strong, consistent position in solidarity with Palestinian students, and with the Palestinian struggle against genocide and settler-colonial apartheid.**"

The SSMU striking in support of Palestine would be fulfilling one of the PAGIP's calls to action, which is *against* the Injunction imposed on the SSMU under Quebec Law.

APPENDIX A



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Appendix B

We have consulted abundantly with our legal counsel throughout the case, and they have informed us that actions such as striking would be against the injunction several times.

The necessary language to be changed would result in the Strike no longer having anything to do with Palestine.

Students are free to organise a strike on their own time, but the SSMU will not be organising a special general assembly nor a special referendum on the question of the entire student body striking for the week of the 18th to the 22nd in solidarity with Palestine. We are prevented by law.

My condolences,

APPROVED



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Appendix C



Political Campaigns Coordinator <campaigns@ssmu.ca>

to Dymetri, Hugo-Victor, Steering, me ▾

Fri, Nov 8, 5:34 PM



Dymetri,

I have indeed read the terms of the injunction.

"An interlocutory injunction ordering the Defendant, its officers, directors, agents, and employees to refrain from ratifying or implementing the Policy Against Genocide in Palestine until the trial on the merits has been denied."

These terms make it very explicit what SSMU's restrictions are. What is being proposed here is neither a ratification from the BoD considering that the General Assembly is the highest governing body in SSMU, nor an implementation of the PAGIP because the policy was not resubmitted. I find it very hard to believe that your legal counsel has so broadly extrapolated the terms of this injunction such that there is no room at all for consultations with students to be pursued.

I find your non-response and lack of initiative from the SSMU as a whole deplorable given the circumstances under which the strike is being put forward. The SSMU has a duty to protect and uphold the interests of its constituents. While students are being arrested, beaten, and disciplined for protesting a genocide, it would reflect very poorly on the SSMU to refuse a meeting about this strike proposal. I also find your dismissal of my concerns to be alarming given that I am fulfilling my mandate to support and consult political campaigns on campus by pressing for a more conclusive response from the SSMU.

I am CCing the students' gmail address for the strike council to centralize this conversation. I recommend that you and the steering committee meet with these students at your earliest convenience. I also recommend you immediately consult legal counsel within the specific intention of proceeding with the potential of a strike mandate. Without proof or further clarification, your claims on legality are not substantive enough for the student body.

APPENDIX C



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Appendix D



Dymetri Taylor <president@ssmu.ca>

to Political, Hugo-Victor, Steering, me ▾

Nov 8, 2024, 6:01PM



Evening,

For clarification, the Board of Directors is the highest governing body at the SSMU, not the General Assembly.

Per my previous email, I have already explained why we will not be going forward with a General Assembly or special referendum.

Unfortunately, until a resolution is reached regarding the current injunction against the Policy against Genocide in Palestine, there is nothing else to be done.

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Appendix E



Dymetri Taylor

to Steering, me, Hugo-Victor, Political ▾

Thu, Nov 21, 10:09 AM (12 days ago)



Good Morning,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing regarding the motion for a student strike for Palestine that was submitted to the SSMU Steering Committee on November 13th.

First and foremost, I sincerely apologise for my errors in addressing this motion and for misrepresenting the SSMU's legal limitations. In stating that no strike motion on Palestine could be ratified, I made an incorrect assumption based on a misunderstanding of [our legal context](#).

This misunderstanding stemmed from a prior legal review concerning the Policy Against Genocide in Palestine and the restrictions of the [current injunction against that Policy](#). At the time, I incorrectly believed that any motion related to this topic might place SSMU in contempt of court; however, I failed to adequately consult our legal counsel or my fellow executives before making such a definitive statement. This was a severe oversight on my part, and I deeply regret the confusion and frustration it caused.

Clarifications and Updates

- On November 15th, the redrafted motion was submitted for legal review following collaboration between SPHR and the team led by VP External Affairs, Hugo-Victor Solomon.
- We are currently awaiting feedback from legal counsel.

Although the speaker did provide alternative suggestions, I understand that I failed to provide support when it was needed.

APPENDIX E



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Appendix F

While the original motion did not align with the recommendations outlined in the legal review, I failed to communicate thoughtfully or effectively collaborate through proactive meetings. I regret not offering the necessary support to help refine the motion's language.

Moving forward, I commit to ensuring that such critical matters are handled with the diligence and collaboration they deserve. As such, I would be more than happy to have a meeting alongside the VP External to discuss the situation with you.

Sincerely,



DYMETRI TAYLOR (il/he/him)

Président | President

Association étudiante de l'Université McGill | Students' Society of McGill University

3600 rue McTavish Street, Suite 1200 | 514-398-6800

Heures de travail : L-V 9h-17h | Working hours M-F 9am-5pm

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