



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

February 13, 2025

The regular bi-monthly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held via teleconference exceptionally due to weather on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:05**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:05.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

The SSMU acknowledges that McGill University is situated on the traditional and unceded territory of the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee nations. The SSMU recognizes and respects these nations as the true and constant custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today. Further, the SSMU commits to and respects the traditional laws and customs of these territories.

L'ÉUM reconnaît que l'Université McGill est située sur le territoire traditionnel et non cédé des nations Anishinaabeg et Haudenosaunee. L'ÉUM reconnaît et respecte ces nations comme les véritables et constants gardiens des terres et des eaux sur lesquelles nous nous rencontrons aujourd'hui. En outre, l'ÉUM s'engage à respecter les lois et coutumes traditionnelles de ces territoires.

3. Attendance

The Speaker takes attendance.

Present: Councillors Chen, Weissman, Kalaga, Renaud, Tick, McKay, El Murr, Bérubé, Li, Engo, Soh, Kohler, Zhao, Kumar, Director Abu Alkhair, President Taylor, VPs Jolicoeur, Solomon, Berglas.

Absent: Councillors Hamele, Kim, Punjabi, Nounke, Crema Black, Farhat, VP Zahidah.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

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

The Agenda is distributed.

Seeing no changes or opposition, the Agenda is adopted.

5. Minutes for Approval

a. [SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2025 -01-30](#) – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no changes or opposition, the Minutes are approved.

6. Announcements

7. [Report of the Steering Committee](#) (3)

The Speaker presents the Report of the Steering Committee, which met yesterday to review tonight's business. Business included a motion on a committee placement, a notice of motion, and the motion postponed from the last meeting. They decided to move the meeting online due to weather.

8. Executive Reports (3)

a. President - **POSTPONED**

b. [Vice-President Finance](#)

VP Jolicoeur presents her report. She states that the accounting software was updated and the audit was completed successfully along with a presentation to the Board. The financial documents are available on the SSMU website. The cheque request purchase order tracking process is being updated, and should be rolled out to services in the next few weeks after internal testing is complete. They began looking for external consulting support for financial processes as they are not very efficient or consistent. The HR department implemented and updated some policies to be in compliance with the Collective Agreement. The Funding Committee is up and running again after some delays due to exam season and the vacancy of the Funding Commissioner position. The Club Finance & Audit Workshop was held, which was held online due to a reduced number of participants, as most clubs attended the workshops in the fall. There were many clubs who needed to change their signing officers and troubleshoot issues with their bank accounts. Some services had their pays rescored, and their use of resources will be assessed later this semester in the services review. The budget is on track to meet the goals of the revised budget, so they might end the year with a surplus. VP Jolicoeur is starting to work on next year's budget projections and is looking for feedback from employees, Commissioners and Executives on spending and budget adjustments. VP Jolicoeur will begin working on next year's health



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

insurance coverage soon and renew the contract with Student Care. She updated the Where's My Money Going brochure, and is working on repurposing the Grocery Program fee for the new food bank project with the VP External. She will be working on reviewing the CERF fund and planning the SSMU Awards. VP Jolicoeur stands for questions.

9. Reports by Councillors **(18)**

a. [Medicine \(MSS\)](#)

Councillor Engo presents the Medicine Report. She states that they held many events in the fall semester, including Frosh, a party with other faculties of medicine throughout the province, General Council meetings, a White Coat ceremony, a retreat, interfaculty activities, as well as Med Games in January. There was a General Council meeting this week, and there will be another in March. The Med Gala is being planned. The President is working on strategic planning, clarifying match technicalities, working on elections and their GA, writing the newsletter, and doing her usual committee work. The Executive VP is organizing conferences, developing a strategic plan and negotiating subscriptions for students. The VP Finance is working on switching from RBC to Desjardins and assisting with the financial aspects of projects. Overall, everything is going well in all Executive portfolios. Councillor Engo notes that this past weekend, the faculty participated in a conference with other faculties of medicine to speak to the government of Quebec about a new law project.

b. [Nursing \(NUS\)](#)

Councillor Soh presents the Nursing Report. She states that NUS is trying to become independent. The Director of Internal Affairs has been updating the constitution and bylaws so that NUS can hold a referendum and elections. He also proposed a new Council structure to improve efficiency and eliminate redundant positions, and proposed an Accountability Committee to more strictly enforce NUS's governing documents. The Logistics Coordinator reformatted their website to make it more organized and provide more resources. The Director of External Affairs established a partnership with Université de Montréal for document and chart translation. The Director of Finance managed reimbursements, ensured financial accountability, and conducted an internal audit to ensure that there are no discrepancies. The Director of Equity worked on the Student Mistreatment Policy to ensure that students are in a positive and respectful learning environment and launched a student feedback form to gather feedback on equity-related initiatives.

c. [Law \(LSA\)](#)

Councillor Bérubé presents the Law Report. He states that the President advocated for student representation for the selection of the new dean and the new interim dean; their current dean was selected to be a Justice in the Superior Court. VP Academic investigated some violations of the Policy



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

on the Assessment of Student Learning and set up meetings of the Pipelettes with the VP External of SSMU. VP Clubs participated in important initiatives about EDI and sexual violence prevention. VP Comms worked on their communications, and VP External will be organizing a referendum on whether to join the Quebec Law Students Federation. VP Finance worked on their finances, and VP Internal resolved problems with their merchandise store. A few VPs organized a charity event for the First People's Justice Centre of Montreal. Councillor Bérubé stands for questions.

President Taylor states that the SSMU will likely get a request for student representation on the selection committee for the new dean, so he will pass that information along to Councillor Bérubé.

d. [Education \(EdUS\)](#)

Councillor Tick presents the Education Report. She states that elections were held for next year's council, as many council members are graduating. Unfortunately, not all positions were filled, but key roles such as the President, and VPs Internal and External were elected. They are looking for a VP Finance. The Education Grad Ball was booked in collaboration with the faculties of Physical Education and Kinesiology, and maybe the Music Education students. Certain faculties have not paid Education back for their Frosh expenses, and the interest is now owed, as per the associated MOA. Faculties should know that they should ensure they paid their expenses and accrued interest. There will be a St Patrick's Day apartment crawl to raise money for Grad Ball. There was a career fair last week, and there is a sock drive ongoing that has been very successful so far. The VP Wellness and the Equity Commissioners planned a lion dance event for the Lunar New Year, which was expensive but very successful. The Equity Commissioners for next year have been hired and were onboarded last weekend. The constitution is being reviewed and updated, as changes have not been made since 2018. They held a second equity training session at the end of January, which was very successful. The VP Academics are redesigning their portfolio for next year with the input of the incoming VP Academics.

10. Committee Reports (12)

a. [Funding Committee](#)

VP Jolicoeur presents the Funding Committee report, the first of the academic year. The Committee has received about three hundred applications this year, so the report is a broad overview of their activities. They have dispersed about half of the available funds so far, so they have succeeded at spreading out applications over the course of the year. They have been stricter about enforcing maximum limits for each application and tried to prioritize groups who are applying for the first time, because the Committee has given too much money too early in the year before. There were some disruptions in funding approvals caused by the resignation of the Funding Commissioner right before the exam period, but the backlog has since been cleared. VP Jolicoeur is working on preparing a



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

detailed report with funding statistics to be presented at the end of the semester. Her priority is to hire a new Commissioner and fix delays caused by prior disruptions. VP Jolicoeur stands for questions.

- b. Services Committee - **POSTPONED**
- c. Milton-Parc Relations Working Group - **POSTPONED**
- d. [Mental Health Committee](#)

Mental Health Commissioner Ghuman presents the Mental Health Committee Report. They have been working on developing merchandise for AUS's Mental Health Committee and the Peer Support Centre. One of their members resigned due to personal reasons, so the Committee is working with a smaller team than expected. The committee met yesterday, and their social media is now up and running. Executives have been introduced and an editorial calendar was created. They emailed the Gerts Manager about creating a positivity wall outside the bar as a project people can contribute to. They considered doing inside Gerts, but decided not to due to the potential for inebriated people writing on it. They are collaborating with AUS on their upcoming winter festivities event at the Y intersection. They are also working on Wellness Hub merchandise, and planning an outreach event. The Mental Health Roundtable is being held next week for the first time this year due to logistical difficulties. The Commissioner is working with the previous Commissioner's exit report, to change the format of the Roundtable to increase participation from faculties and departments. Next year, they will be developing a new Mental Health Policy. They are working on integrating Roundtable members, such as faculties and departments and McGill resources such as the Wellness Hub. Commissioner Ghuman will meet with the Wellness Hub Director next week to work on this.

VP Solomon motions to suspend the rules to add Motion 13c from the floor. He asks if he should introduce the motion now and if he should share the motion in the chat.

The Speaker answers that he can introduce the motion now, and asks the Parliamentarian to share the motion in the chat.

VP Solomon states that amendments to the constitution need to be ratified by members, so this motion allows the membership to vote on the amendment. The amendment makes it so that future VP Finances are hired rather than elected; they were lucky to have a VP Finance with a finance background this year, but they have had VP Finances who do not have this background in the past. Two years ago, this occurred and resulted in a large deficit and layoffs as they approved all expenses. Future VP Finances would be qualified to manage the society's finances, but would have the same role and responsibilities. A pool was released to membership and many Executives, including the current VP Finance were consulted. VP Finances from previous years have expressed agreement with this amendment, to ensure stability and institutional memory. The VP Finance would be managed by the Board of Directors.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

The Speaker entertains a recess to allow the Steering Committee to review the motion.

The meeting resumes at 18:49.

The Speaker states that the Steering Committee has determined Motion 13c to be urgent enough to entertain tonight. He entertains a vote on adding Motion 13c to the agenda.

With 12 in favour, 3 opposed, and 1 abstention, Motion 13c is added to the agenda.

11. Question Period (5)

Councillor Kohler states that the agenda and Motion 13a are not updated on the website, and asks for an explanation of the discrepancy and who updates the website.

Director Abu Alkhair states that Motion 13a was postponed at the last meeting, so he consulted with clubs, the VP Finance, and the President, and made some changes accordingly.

The Speaker answers that the Parliamentarian sends the relevant documents to the communications team the morning of the meeting. Sometimes, there is a delay in uploading the documents to the website.

Councillor Abu Alkhair asks if he can bring a motion from the floor.

The Speaker answers that he can if there are no further questions.

Councillor Kohler asks what policies the Steering Committee has in place for approving motions regarding fee renewals to ensure financial transparency. She was looking at previous motions that were approved and was wondering about base fee calculations.

The Speaker answers that the Steering Committee is governed by its Terms of Reference. They do not review budgets to assess their accuracy, but review motions to ensure compliance with governing documents.

President Taylor states that the Legislative Council is responsible for determining appropriateness of fee increases or renewal, not the Steering Committee.

VP Solomon motions to suspend the rules to add Discussion Item 15b.

Director Abu Alkhair seconds.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Seeing no opposition, the discussion item is added to the agenda.

Director Abu Alkhair motions to suspend the rules to add a motion regarding a fee increase for the Musicians' Collective.

The Speaker asks Director Abu Alkhair to email the motion to the Steering Committee.

The Speaker entertains a recess to allow the Steering Committee to review the motion.

The meeting resumes at 19:04.

The Speaker states that the motion was declined by the Steering Committee because the deadline for submitting fee questions has passed.

12. Recess, Consent Items (5)

The Speaker entertains a recess at 19:05.

The meeting resumes at 19:16.

13. Motions

- a. [Motion for Interim Status Recommendation for 7 Clubs](#) (Councillor Abu Alkhair) -

APPROVED

Director Abu Alkhair states that he made some amendments and consultations. He underwent careful review and consultation of documentation, he recommended the 7 strongest applications for club status. VP Finance and the accounting department found no issue with opening bank accounts for these clubs.

VP Berglas thanks Director Abu Alkhair. They ask how many clubs have applied and not been recommended.

Director Abu Alkhair answers that around 12 clubs have applied unsuccessfully. Most of them have been waiting 3-4 months for a response on their application.

Councillor El Murr asks if there is a ranking system and a threshold for clubs to obtain to be recommended.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Director Abu Alkhair answers that the rubric is used as a guide. If one of the three most important criteria is seen as lacking, such as the membership requirement or compliance with SSMU policy, the application is deemed not as strong. If three criteria are not met, the application is even weaker.

Councillor Kohler asks how many clubs the SSMU has.

Director Abu Alkhair answers that there are around 220 clubs.

Seeing no further speakers, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 13a is approved.

- b. Motion to appoint Councillor Punjabi to the Steering Committee until the end of her term (Councillor Punjabi, seconded by Councilor Renaud) - **APPROVED**
- c. [Motion Regarding Amendment to the Constitution 2025-02-13](#) (VP Solomon) - **APPROVED**

VP Solomon yields his time to President Taylor.

President Taylor presents Motion 13c. The decision to hire the VP Finance was made based on an assessment of the SSMU's recent functioning and finances. Before the mid-2010s, students started getting involved in student politics through their departments or faculty and moved into SSMU Executive positions from there. However, in recent years this has not been the case; the reason is unknown. The VP Finance is a very important position as SSMU manages millions of dollars, and is the reason the SSMU went into such a large deficit (\$1,400,000) two years ago. The VP Finance at the time approved all financial requests and had no experience with finance. Experience is vital to all Executive positions, but especially the VP Finance position. If the VP Finance does not have experience, the SSMU is likely to go back into a deficit. MUS and EUS both hire their VP Finances as they deal with large amounts of money; at SSMU, people do not always run for roles they are qualified for. The VP Student Life position will be renamed to the VP Clubs & Services as the portfolio deals mainly with clubs and services. The student life duties are mostly in the VP Internal's portfolio. The role of members in removing an Officer was clarified, as they are the only ones who should be able to do so. There will now be a simple majority of Executives required to approve motions at the Executive Committee, which approves hirings and purchases of up to \$10,000. Without this change, the Executive Committee becomes useless if multiple Executives resign. The VP Sustainability & Operations was created in 2016 and brought back in 2023 to help with the workload at the time, but the Executives can operate without this position. Someone ran for the position last year and the position was brought back, so the SSMU was reorganized to fit this additional position. Thus, the VP Internal position was left with little workload other than events, but the events department also did not have much to do. So, the VP



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Internal and VP Sustainability & Operations positions will be merged on the recommendation of the previous VP Sustainability & Operations, and due to the similarity of the portfolios. Right now, there are two roles that are quite empty.

VP Jolicoeur states that the VP Finance is in charge of health insurance for 20,000 SSMU members, handling the Society's finances, which are worth millions of dollars, and signing off on contracts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. The VP Finance is in charge of renegotiating leases and agreements that have a huge impact on the Society. She is a finance student and cannot imagine taking on the role without a basic understanding of accounting processes and financial terminology.

Councillor El Murr asks if the changes will come into effect this election, or next year.

VP Solomon answers that these changes would go into effect immediately, as soon as the referendum results are released next Friday. The VP Finance would then be hired, but current candidates running in the election would not necessarily be disqualified.

VP Berglas agrees with these changes, but states that the Board must be elected. Some Executives are Directors, including the VP Finance. They motion to amend the motion to note that all Directors must be elected by SSMU members.

The Speaker asks where VP Berglas would like to put their amendment.

VP Berglas answers that it would go into the Board of Directors section of the constitution, under the Qualifications section.

The Speaker asks if VP Berglas would like this amendment to be reflected on both appendices of Motion 13c.

VP Berglas answers that it is more pertinent for the amendment about the VP Finance.

VP Solomon states that it would make sense to have the amendment on both appendices of Motion 13c. Once Directors are chosen by the Nominating Committee, there has been a ratification vote taken place in the past. There should be a vote taken on Directors and ratified by the membership. If the goal of the amendment is to ensure compliance with the Companies Act, it would make sense for it to include it on both appendices and questions.

VP Berglas is amenable to this.

VP Solomon states that this is a friendly amendment.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

The Speaker asks the owner of Motion 13c to give the Parliamentarian editing access.

The Speaker asks VP Berglas if the wording of the amendment is adequate.

VP Berglas answers yes.

Councillor Zhao asks if other solutions were considered. VP Finance is a very important role with a large workload and experience required, but appointment may not be a viable solution. Different candidates may not propose themselves. He asks if elections are a barrier to candidates proposing themselves. He thinks that elections are not a barrier, and suggests explaining the role better to ensure that experienced candidates end up in the position.

President Taylor states that the election is a barrier because there are only two candidates running for each position right now, and only one candidate in the VP University Affairs and VP Sustainability and Operations positions. He has been told that individuals do not want to run for SSMU because of what has happened this year. Thus, he believes that elections are a barrier for qualified individuals. One person who is a finance student was going to run for VP Finance, but decided not to do so due to the signature requirement, the political climate at SSMU, and the workload.

VP Solomon adds that Executive positions are political. It makes the most sense to have the VP Finance be the least political position for equity and sustainability considerations. Having someone with a qualified background entertain political discussion in their campaign is a high barrier, as this is not their area of expertise. People should not have access to these positions just because they have the courage to run. VP Solomon notes that there are very few candidates, and that they do not have anyone with a finance background running for this position right now. It is important than someone qualified be in the role, as they do not want to backslide on the progress made this year.

Councillor Kalaga suggests maintaining the election of the VP Finance but creating eligibility requirements to run for the VP Finance position. They cannot be sure who the Board will hire in the future. It would be smarter to add a qualification.

VP Solomon states that this is the main goal of hiring a VP Finance. They could include the requirement in the motion, but the Board would look for people who meet the requirements of the role, not just people who run for the position.

Councillor Renaud asks what considerations have been made for candidates currently running for VP Operations and VP Internal, given that the scope of the VP Internal position has expanded and the change was made at the last minute. She asks if the VP Operations position was created by referendum.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

President Taylor answers that the role was created in 2016 and was vacant from 2018 to 2022, as he previously heard that the former VP Operations created the role for herself. In terms of the candidates for VP Operations and VP Internal, their workloads are not as significant as the other Executive positions. Merging the positions would make the VP Internal workload as large as that of other Executives. There is an Operations Assistant position that people can apply for if they are very interested in the Operations side of SSMU.

The Speaker notes that there was a Judicial Board case against Elections SSMU about the VP Sustainability & Operations position a few years ago.

Councillor Bérubé states that some of this year's Board members were appointed as members rather than elected. He asks if these amendments would make the Directors in question elected, and how this would be done.

VP Solomon answers that the Directors' election would be done similarly to by-election ratification, as they would occur after the end of the referendum period. Given that the role of VP Internal is older than that of VP Operations, those applying to VP Internal would inherit additional responsibilities that would put them on par with other Executives' workload.

President Taylor states that in the fall 2023 or winter 2024 referendum, there was a ratification vote for all Directors voted on by all students.

VP Jolicoeur thinks that the election process for VP Finance is a barrier for qualified candidates, because there are many different skills required for this specific position that are completely different from political skills required to run for an Executive position. Adding the requirement of financial skills would just make it harder for people to run, and hardly any candidates apply for the position already. Adding more requirements and the skills to succeed in the VP Finance position is an unrealistic expectation.

Councillor Kohler asks why this motion was added at the last minute if this issue is so pressing.

VP Solomon answers that it took him a long time to review the constitution and do the required amount of background work to prepare this motion. He did the best he could while balancing other responsibilities, including full-time studies and other work responsibilities. There was no way to know how essential the qualifications of a VP Finance were until this point in the Executives' term. The change seems large, but it will ensure that progress made this year is not derailed, and ensuring that the responsibilities that should be under the VP Internal portfolio are so.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Councillor Kalaga thinks that the amendment to the constitution is confusing, because there is already a ratification process in place. The Directors appointed to the Board through the Legislative Council are already elected, so he is unsure if it is necessary to add the amendment. He suggests an amendment to the VP Finance's position on the Board, rather than applying the amendment to all Board members.

VP Berglas states that this amendment would reconcile the issue of the VP Finance being hired and not elected, and because Directors need to be elected by members by law. Legislative Councillors are elected by the members of their faculty, not SSMU members, which is why the ratification vote is done. The amendment does not add increased restrictions, because ratification votes count as electing Directors. It is important to have the ratification vote every year, because people lose faith in the Board of Directors when they feel as though they were unable to give their input about it.

Councillor Bérubé amends Motion 13c to clarify the election procedure.

The Speaker states that the ratification process is likely clarified in the Internal Regulations of Elections & Referenda.

President Taylor clarifies that the ratification procedure is clarified in section 6.5 of the Constitution. The referendum process is outlined in the bylaws.

VP Solomon asks what the quorum requirement would be to ratify the Directors. He asks if the by-election quorum requirement of 10% would apply, or if the IRs say otherwise.

President Taylor answers that the Board members are ratified by referendum and subject to 15% quorum. If the Board members were directly elected, the procedure would be much more extensive because the ratification process would no longer apply.

Councillor Bérubé states that he is comfortable with the current ratification process, if it prevents them from having to amend the Constitution too much.

Seeing no further speakers, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 13c is unanimously approved.

- d. [Motion to add the plebiscite questions to the 2025 Winter Referendum](#) (VP Solomon) -
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

14. Notices of Motion



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

- a. [Notice of Motion Regarding the Policy on Black Student Advancement and Inclusion](#)
(VP Solomon)

VP Solomon states that the Black Affairs Commissioner will give the full presentation on this motion at the next meeting. Almost all of the External Affairs committees have policies to regulate their activities, mandate, role of the Commissioner, specify how their fees are used, and clarify their relationships with McGill. This policy addresses the systemic barriers faced by groups consulted and issues discussed at the Black Affairs Committee. It clarifies the mandate of the Black Affairs Commissioner and ensures that black students and groups can access funding and resources at SSMU through the Black Affairs website.

15. For Discussion

- a. [Plebiscite Questions](#) (VP Berglas)

VP Berglas states that they collected questions to be asked as non-binding plebiscite questions on the referendum. This meeting is their last chance to submit referendum questions, so VP Berglas thinks they should discuss the questions as a group and build consensus, and add questions from there. They think that seven questions are too many, and VP Berglas suggests choosing two or three and maybe submit some amendments. VP Berglas collected the questions anonymously, but if people want to defend the questions they submitted, that is an option.

President Taylor states that, per question 2, Activities Night is held twice a year, in the fall and winter. So, the question might be redundant. The question could ask if Activities Night should be held twice a semester, but this would be logistically impossible. He suggests adding a question asking about SSMU's priorities; local, international, et cetera.

Councillor Renaud states that the question about divestment is vague, and notes that there is already a policy on this question. A question of this nature should either be more specific, asking what SSMU should do in the future or broader, asking if SSMU should pursue divestment more generally.

VP Solomon states that he agrees with Councillor Renaud. The policy related to divestment was approved by the membership, and states that SSMU should lobby McGill to divest from harmful military technology. He even discussed this at his last meeting with the administration. This question is redundant. The question about protecting students of colour is also redundant, because they are passing a policy that addresses this issue at the next meeting. The policy will provide more SSMU resources to protect students of colour.

Councillor Kalaga agrees that the questions brought up are redundant. The idea of a question about the direction of SSMU is a good thing to ask, because he has received a lot of feedback from Arts



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

students about their ideas for SSMU. A plebiscite question should guide them, so a question of this nature might be more useful.

The Speaker suggests making motions to strike or amend questions.

Councillor Bérubé asks if the acronyms in question 4 can be clarified, because otherwise the question is unclear. He suggests spelling out the full name of the organizations.

VP Solomon answers that the External Affairs portfolio is organizing a Get Organized! workshop in collaboration with Syndicat locataire autonome de Montréal (SLAM), which advocates for people who are facing eviction or abusive landlord relations. SSMU has donated to this group before and promotes their events, and SLAM attends meetings of the Milton-Parc Working Group. CCMP is the Comité des citoyens de Milton-Parc, which SSMU organized the Culture Shock walking tour series in the fall. CLAC is the group that vandalized the Leacock building.

President Taylor states that he proposed question 7 before he had heard from Associate Provost Campbell that McGill will not bring back Floor Fellows. It would be good to see how badly students want Floor Fellows back, and if they want them back badly enough to create a fee to fund them. He also suggests striking questions 2, 3 and 5, if Councillors are so amenable.

Councillor Renaud states that she does not necessarily want to strike question 3, but she notes that McGill Athletics is impacted by the Policy on Military Technology. She would like the question to be more specific and relate to potential initiatives that can be taken. If no one comes forward to amend the question, she would be amenable to striking it.

President Taylor suggests rewording question 3 to make it open to comments.

Councillor Kalaga states that having an open question might be confusing for students, as the policy is already in place and advocacy is already taking place on the issue of divestment. The question would likely get few responses and would probably be hard to interpret.

VP Solomon motions to strike questions 2, 4, and 5.

Seeing no opposition, questions 2, 4, and 5 are struck.

The Speaker notes that questions 1, 3, 6, and 7 are still up for discussion.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Councillor Kohler notes that Floor Fellows are important, and asks how much a fee would cost to reinstate them, as it could help students make a more informed decision. Students do not want to spend much but care about this initiative, so pricing would be helpful.

President Taylor states that a preferential question is an option; they could ask students if they would be willing to install a fee for Floor Fellows, and ask how much they would be willing to pay amongst a few options including \$10 and under, \$8 and under, and \$2 and under.

VP Berglas states that they wrote questions 1 and 6, and notes that the latter has come up in the Senate. They are advocating for question 1 and would be able to get more information on it by themselves. They suggest submitting only three questions, otherwise the ballot will be unfeasible.

The Speaker suggests that Councillors suggest amendments to move things along.

VP Solomon motions to strike question 3 and adds question 8, which regards the importance of McGill students learning French.

The Speaker asks if VP Solomon would like the answer to be yes/no or scaled.

VP Solomon answers that he would like answers to be on a scale from 1 to 5.

Councillor Renaud asks how this question is pertinent, given that non-Quebecois students now have a French proficiency requirement. She asks what information VP Solomon is looking for out of this question.

VP Solomon answers that a representative from the provincial government came to SSMU and asked how much interest there is in learning French at McGill. He is interested in getting a sense of students' intrinsic willingness to learn French, given that there is so much pressure from the government to learn French. What is interesting about the proficiency requirement is that students are not required to demonstrate proficiency, the University is. Students will not be prevented from graduating or asked to demonstrate proficiency.

Seeing no opposition, question 8 is added.

President Taylor proposes question 9. Once they receive all questions, he suggests going through each and figuring out which to keep and which to remove.

Seeing no opposition, question 9 is added.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

VP Berglas suggests an amendment to question 9, as the response options are confusing.

Councillor Kalaga agrees and thinks that the options should be reworded.

VP Berglas makes an amendment to question 9.

VP Solomon states that his portfolio covers local, provincial, and national advocacy. The categories are not mutually exclusive, and one cannot be prioritized without paying attention to the cultural context of the moment. Prioritizing one level of advocacy will leave SSMU unprepared for advocacy at other levels. Since the 1980s, SSMU has been involved in issues at all levels of advocacy, because they have students from all over the world. He does not think that this question is helpful.

Councillor Kohler asks if reinstating Floor Fellows would be feasible, given that SHHS manages the hiring and facilitation of Floor Fellows. She is unsure how much reinstating this would cost, and feels as though the question is very open-ended.

President Taylor notes that the amendments to question 9 are friendly. He notes that McGill is not interested in reinstating Floor Fellows due to the cost. If all students pay \$10, they would collect \$240,000 and be able to pay Floor Fellows. Because this is a plebiscite question, they could see how students feel about the issue and develop a plan next year. The question is not really actionable due to its nature as a plebiscite question.

Councillor Kalaga states that the response option “McGill advocacy” for question 9 is confusing, and suggests making it clearer. He agrees that incorporating all levels of advocacy is important, but this question gives them an idea of how students view SSMU’s advocacy and where they think SSMU should focus its efforts. Many issues that have come up are related to the vagueness of advocacy. He thinks this would be the most useful plebiscite question.

Councillor Renaud asks if question 9 can be ranked; only being able to choose one answer would be confusing given that SSMU does all types of advocacy. The answer “McGill advocacy” should be clarified.

The Speaker entertains amendments on question 1.

VP Berglas suggests a straw poll on all the questions, followed by discussion. They are interested in this question, but if no one else is, it can be struck.

VP Jolicoeur states that she is ambivalent about question 1. She asks VP Berglas for more context on how much student representation there is on this.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

VP Berglas answers that there is no student representation on this issue right now. They suggest allowing Councillors to pick the three questions they would like to see on the ballot.

The Speaker states that they can consider this manner of choosing questions. If no one wishes to speak on question 1 right now, they can circle back to it at a later point.

Seeing no further speakers, the Speaker entertains debate on question 6.

Councillor Renaud agrees with both questions 1 and 6, given that this topic was discussed a lot at the Legislative Council last semester. Even if the Council is a representative body, it can be hard to gauge student feedback, so it is a good idea to ask these questions on the ballot.

VP Solomon agrees, and notes that these questions have been brought to the administration, who is unsure about students' feelings on them. The goal of the questions should be to provide SSMU with the most information that will benefit SSMU in their negotiations with McGill; 1 and 6 both do so. The other three questions do not do so, and question 9 may confuse them more and cause SSMU to stray from students' desired advocacy.

The Speaker recommends that formatting adjustments be made now.

VP Berglas suggests making questions 1 and 6 yes/no answers, with a comment box for additional responses. This ensures that the questions are simple, but that those with strong feelings can provide feedback. There may be an overwhelming amount of questions, but given the probable low response rate, it would be feasible.

President Taylor states that comment boxes require the addition of another question. Each question would require a sub-question with the comment box.

VP Berglas suggests that, in that case, question 1 be a yes/no question with an email address provided for those with additional comments.

VP Solomon suggests using the information email line for feedback.

VP Jolicoeur suggests having yes/no questions and a general feedback box for the yes/no questions. Since there are only three questions, this should be a good solution.

VP Berglas is amenable to this.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

VP Jolicoeur states that this would streamline the feedback they receive; students will also be more likely to provide feedback when they are filling out the form rather than sending a separate email with their feedback. Having feedback sent by email would prevent students from being able to send their feedback anonymously.

The Speaker entertains debate on question 7.

VP Berglas likes the idea of a fee for Floor Fellows, but notes that it might be confusing to ask students whether they want a fee.

President Taylor states that he does not mind if this question is struck, but notes that plebiscite questions have gotten a lot of response in the past, even when there are quite a few on the ballot. He suggests striking question 7.

Seeing no opposition, question 7 is struck.

The Speaker entertains debate on question 8.

VP Solomon states that question 8 might come across as latently being Quebec nationalist given the language politics in Quebec, or it might seem as though the question agrees with the Charter of the French Language. He suggests an amendment to question 8.

VP Jolicoeur asks what the implications are of students voting against this question, because SSMU should encourage students to learn French. She suggests leaving this question out if they are looking to submit only 3 questions. It would be interesting to know how students feel about this issue.

Councillor Renaud is curious about potential responses to this question, but she agrees that a negative response would alienate Quebecois and Francophone students. If she saw negative responses to this question, she would be disheartened. She thinks that it is pertinent to survey students on this issue, but she is unsure of the implications given the current political climate.

VP Solomon states that a strong no vote would be discouraging, but a strong yes vote would be encouraging, and would motivate them to create more links between the McGill and francophone communities. It is informative and would justify francophone initiatives at McGill, such as the Pipelettes conversation group. There is a risk that the results are not positive, they do not need to share it. Knowing how students feel about learning French would better inform the French initiatives on campus.

Councillor Renaud thinks that a positive response would help francophone initiatives on campus. She suggests an amendment to make the question more geared towards SSMU initiatives.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

VP Solomon suggests an amendment to question 8.

The Speaker entertains debate on question 9.

VP Jolicoeur thinks that options d and e for question 9 should be combined into one option, as they are redundant with each other.

President Taylor states that this is a friendly amendment.

VP Jolicoeur suggests that each response option should have an explanation. For example, the student life option would include clubs, services, and events. For example, students might not know what students do for international advocacy. They should be clearer about what SSMU's prioritization of a given level of advocacy would look like.

Councillor Kalaga suggests an amendment to question 9. He asks how to best reword the "McGill advocacy" option.

VP Berglas makes an amendment to question 9, replacing "McGill advocacy" with "McGill governance."

President Taylor states that these are friendly amendments.

VP Solomon thinks that the best way to pose this question is to allow students to respond directly rather than give options. The categories are not helpful because the categories are not mutually exclusive. The information could easily be used against SSMU, so they should leave a blank box as the response format. He proposes an amendment to this effect.

VP Berglas agrees with VP Solomon. For example, colonialism is a geopolitical issue, but they can also lobby McGill about Indigenous Affairs and the bursaries they provide Indigenous students. So, this advocacy would fall into community advocacy, advocacy with McGill, and geopolitical issue advocacy.

VP Jolicoeur states that if they were to give students options, the separation proposed did not make sense. She agrees that the best way to go forward is with a fill in the blank answer.

Councillor Kalaga thinks that a fill in the blank is a good solution given the overlap between issue areas, but he thinks that students are unlikely to fill out the text box. Students will be more likely to answer a yes/no or multiple choice question rather than take the time to type out their thoughts. He thinks that they will likely get fewer responses if the answer format is a text box, but it is still probably the best solution.



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Councillor Renaud thinks it is more harmful to have strict categories than to have a fill in the blank response and a potentially lower response rate. Students involved with student governance and who have preferences will take the time to fill out the form. Advocacy at all levels is being done anyways, so it is bizarre to ask students to rank them within the same question when they are dealt with by separate portfolios.

President Taylor states that this is a friendly amendment.

VP Solomon motions to suspend the rules to add Motion 13d.

Councillor Renaud seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 13d is added to the agenda.

The Speaker entertains a vote on Motion 13d.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 13d is approved.

a. Quebec Government decides to end 'Bourses perspectives' program (VP Solomon)

VP Solomon states that the provincial government ended the *Bourses perspectives* program, which gives students grants of \$2,500 per semester at the university level or \$1,500 per semester at the CEGEP level for students in programs in industries with high demand for labour. VP Solomon was informed by the Quebec Student Union that the government decided to cut this program a week ago. He discussed it with Concordia, who does not have the capacity to mount a mobilization effort against this. He notes that the EUS is uniquely impacted by the end of this program and there will be a rally tomorrow organized by the QSU in front of François Legault's office, which is across from Roddick Gates. He will share the information with the Legislative Councillors. VP Solomon brought this up with Associate Provost Campbell, who was not aware of this until he told her about it. This is surprising given the widespread impact of the cuts. If people are interested in advocacy or in attending the rally, they should let him know.

Councillor Renaud asks if the EUS reached out to VP Solomon about mobilization efforts, or if he reached out to the faculties affected by this program cut. She knows that this will also affect the Education and maybe the Nursing faculties as well. She asks if VP Solomon will reach out to them as well.

VP Solomon answers that he reached out to EUS because he knew that engineers would be disproportionately affected, so he spoke with the EUS Council and Councillor El Murr. The EUS



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

discussed this at an inter-university engineering meeting. He has not heard from Education or Nursing, and will contact them in the future.

Councillor El Murr states that the EUS will release a statement in support of tomorrow's rally and condemning the cancellation of the scholarship program. The EUS President met with other engineering students' societies of the province, where they agreed to release a similar statement.

16. Adjournment: **21:00**

The Speaker declares the meeting adjourned at 21:00.

APPROVED