



**Association étudiante de l'Université McGill**

*Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.*

**Students' Society of McGill University**

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# SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

April 3, 2025

The regular bi-monthly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held in Leacock 232 on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 18:00.

## 1. Call to Order: **18:14**

The Speaker reminds everyone that the default speaking time is 1-minute. He asks everyone to raise their hand or placard to be recognized, and for the members to be patient as there are a lot of guests present.

He calls the meeting to order at 18:14.

## 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.



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Present: Councillors Chen, Weissman, Hamele, Renaud, Kim, Tick, McKay, El Murr, Punjabi, Bérubé, Li, Engo, Crema Black, Soh, Kohler, Zhao, Kumar, Gowdy, Abu Alkhair, President Taylor, VPs Jolicoeur, Solomon, Berglas, Zahidah.

Absent: Councillors Kalaga, Nounke, Farhat.

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

The agenda is distributed.

President Taylor adds Motion 11g.

VP Solomon adds Motion 11a. He asks that it be addressed first given that it is a quick point.

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

The Speaker states that both motions are approved by the Steering Committee. He entertains a vote on Motions 11a and 11g.

Seeing no opposition, Motions 11a and 11g are added to the agenda.

Seeing no opposition, the agenda is adopted.

### 5. Minutes for Approval

#### a. [SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2025-03-20](#) – **APPROVED**

The minutes are distributed.

Seeing no changes or corrections, the minutes are approved.

### 6. Announcements

### 7. [Question Period](#) (5)

The Speaker reads out the question submitted on the question form: *J'adresse cette question à la vice-présidente Zahida: par rapport au dernier référendum qui a montré que la pluralité des étudiants mcgillois ne valorisent pas le français. Pourquoi les étudiants se foutent-ils de la langue majoritaire du province auquel ils habitent? Que faites-vous contre la discrimination anti-qubécoise à McGill?*



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Le VP Solomon explique que les résultats du référendum indiquent que le français et sa promotion sont valorisés à McGill, alors cette question est peut-être fondée sur une mauvaise compréhension de la situation.

Seeing no further questions, the question period is exhausted.

8. Committee Reports **(3)**

a. [Services Committee](#)

Councillor Abu Alkhair states that the Services Committee sent out a statement on the changes to the IRs of Student Groups.

Councillor Renaud motions to move into discussion point 9a.

9. For Discussion

a. SSMU Clubs and Services (Councillor Kumar)

Councillor Kumar states that the Science councillors were discussing the issues with SSMU clubs and services after last meeting's discussion point on Midnight Kitchen. There have been many issues with services in the past few years. She asks how SSMU services run, and why there have been so many transparency issues with clubs and services in recent years.

Councillor Abu Alkhair asks how long his speaking time is.

The Speaker answers that it is one minute.

Councillor Abu Alkhair motions to extend his speaking time to 5 minutes.

Councillor Weissman seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Councillor Abu Alkhair's speaking time is extended.

Councillor Abu Alkhair states that clubs are groups of people with a common interest or belief, and have access to a bank account and SSMU funding and sponsorship opportunities. Most services have opt-outable fees, so that students can choose which services they want to support, and have employees or volunteers. Because they have such large budgets, there must be accountability measures in place for services. In recent years, this has been established through the Services Review Committee. The SRC needs a lot of changes, and the services are now required to submit a 3-year plan to help organize their services. Many services struggle with marketing, so more stringent



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requirements, such as budget submissions or check-ins with Executives, might help with their organization. Funding applications have been delayed because the Funding Commissioner resigned.

VP Jolicoeur adds that funding applications are backlogged because the Funding Commissioner resigned. She hired a new one, so they are beginning to clear the backlog.

Councillor Abu Alkhair states that the Funding Committee is meeting tomorrow to deal with the backlog, because students have been paying out of pocket for club expenses, which is unacceptable.

Councillor Weissman asks Councillor Kumar what she wants to address, because he has his own opinions since he sits on SRC. He asks President Taylor what he can reveal given the confidentiality agreement.

Councillor Kumar answers that she is curious about the regulations for discretionary funding. It seemed as though everyone understood discretionary funding differently at the last meeting.

President Taylor answers that discretionary funding is meant to be used at the discretion of the service, but it is further restricted by the fee question for the service and the discretionary funding question. All fees collected for the service have to be utilized according to the parameters of the service and its discretionary funding. There is no proper definition of discretionary funding in any internal documents. He notes that discretionary funding was only approved for UGE, Midnight Kitchen, and SACCOMMS.

The Speaker notes that he can be reached by email rather than Zoom chat, since he is screen sharing.

Councillor Zhao states that some services feel isolated from the Services Committee, and it is frustrating when their funding applications are not approved in time or denied. The services cannot appeal the approval of their plans because of the backlog. He asks Director Abu Alkhair if he attends SRC meetings, and which service he sat on in the past.

The Speaker reminds everyone to address their comments to him.

Councillor Abu Alkhair motions to extend his speaking time by one minute.

Seeing no opposition, his speaking time is extended.

Councillor Abu Alkhair notes that services collect their own fees, so they do not need to apply for funding. For example, the ASN collects a \$1 fee per semester, per student. The Funding Commissioner handles the SSMU's funds, which clubs and groups on campus apply to, regardless of faculty. He adds



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that the definition of discretionary funding needs to be clarified in the Internal Regulations. Councillor Abu Alkhair notes that he was a part of ASN before becoming the Director of Clubs & Services. He was the Services Councillor, and sits on the Services & Services Review committees. If anyone has any specific questions, they can ask him.

Councillor Weissman states that there was a lot of confusion at the last meeting about the Midnight Kitchen discussion because of the language used. He notes that the central question was whether Midnight Kitchen should be able to use their discretionary funding without fulfilling their core mandate.

Councillor Renaud asks Councillor Abu Alkhair to address the concerns that have been raised.

Councillor Abu Alkhair answers that a big concern is mandate overlap among services. If there is mandate overlap, discussions need to be had with services. Finances were also an important consideration; students vote on services' mandates so they should be following their mandates.

Councillor Renaud suggests continuing this discussion when they discuss the amendments to the Internal Regulations of Student Groups.

Member Warr asks someone to read the Services Committee report. They think that it would make sense to hear from the services.

The Speaker asks if Member Warr is referring to the report linked on the agenda.

Member Warr answers yes.

Councillor Abu Alkhair reads the report of the [Services Committee](#).

Member Warr states that they are a member of the Union for Gender Empowerment, which is an outgrowth of the McGill Women's Union. The MWU was founded in 1905 and revived in the 1960s with female students' frustrations with a lack of representation in SSMU. Many services that are useful to students are outgrowths of the MWU & UGE. UGE is linked with the broader Montreal and Quebec communities. Their status as a service is what allows them to provide students with services.

Member Lapensée asks why the Services Representative is supporting this motion given that the services have expressed opposition.

Councillor Abu Alkhair suggests saving this discussion for the debate on the motion.



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The Speaker notes that he will entertain 5 minutes more of this discussion, so that they can get through all the motions.

Councillor Zhao agrees with the report that there is a lack of trust between SSMU and services.

Councillor Weissman motions to exhaust the discussion item. He has more points to make, but they can be made during the debate period on the motion.

Councillor Tick seconds.

Seeing no opposition, the discussion item is exhausted.

**10. Consent Items (5)**

The Speaker entertains a recess until 19:00. He asks Councillors not to vote on the form until it is updated.

The meeting resumes at 19:01. He notes that none of the motions were consented to.

**11. Motions (20-minute debate period per motion)**

- a. [MOTION CONCERNANT LE SOUTIEN À UNE LETTRE PROPOSANT UN DIALOGUE SUR LA PROTECTION ET LA PROMOTION DU FRANÇAIS EN MILIEU UNIVERSITAIRE](#) (VP Solomon) – **APPROVED**

Commissaire Dube dit qu'une étudiante lui est venu avec un projet pour étendre la réduction des droits de scolarité pour les étudiants français et belges aux autres pays francophones. La Commission aux affaires francophones a travaillé avec le Délit pour écrire la lettre de demande. The goal of the motion is for SSMU to sign onto the letter asking the provincial government to base the tuition reduction on whether or not a student went to school in French rather than citizenship. The Quebec government is trying to punish anglophone students without benefiting francophone students. The motion would mandate SSMU to support and sign the letter and share it with other student associations. The administration has shown support for this initiative as well.

The Speaker notes that he will be enforcing a 20-minute extendable debate period per motion. He will keep a timer, and members can ask him how much time is remaining.

Councillor El Murr asks how a francophone will be defined, in terms of schooling or citizenship in a francophone country.



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Membre Maraval, le directeur en chef du Délit, répond qu'ils souhaitent étendre la réduction des droits de scolarité à tous les francophones. La lettre propose une solution potentielle; qu'un francophone soit définie comme toute personne ayant un diplôme d'études secondaire d'une institution française, par exemple le baccalauréat français qui est donné à travers le monde. Ce diplôme est une preuve que l'étudiant peut parler et produire des travaux en français.

Membre Epstein demande où sont les documents concernant cette motion, puisqu'ils ne sont pas disponibles sur le site web de l'AEUM.

The Speaker answers that they have not been uploaded to the website since they were proposed late. He asks the member to email VP Solomon so that he can share the document with him.

VP Solomon states that the member can send him an email so that he can share it with the member.

Membre Warr demande comment ils pourraient étendre ces provisions aux étudiants des pays où les diplômes ne sont pas reconnus par d'autres gouvernements.

Le VP Solomon suggère au membre de lui envoyer un courriel étant donné que sa question est tellement précise. Il serait en mesure de partager un document avec le texte de la lettre ou parler de sa question. He motions to call the question.

Councillor Renaud seconds.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 11a is approved.

- b. [Motion Regarding the Creation of SSMU Food Pantry, Amendments to the Food Security Policy, and Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Finance](#) (VP Solomon)  
– **APPROVED**

VP Solomon states that this motion seeks to set up a food pantry in the SSMU in coming years. A pilot project was launched with funding from the Grocery Project. The motion formalizes the food pantry, which fed hundreds of students. He is now working with SHHS to find a permanent spot for the pantry and hire Food Pantry Coordinators. He invites Councillors to read through the proposal.

Seeing no speakers, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 11b is approved.



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c. [Motion Regarding the SSMU Policy Against Antisemitism](#) (VP Solomon) – **APPROVED**

VP Solomon states that he is committed to protecting all students from hate, which is why he worked to get the Policy on Black Student Advancement and Inclusion. The Policy Against Anti-Semitism is the result of extensive consultation and feedback. The policy had the most extensive consultation of any policy proposed this year. VP Solomon reached out to even more student groups after receiving feedback at the Legislative Council meetings of November 7 and 21. The policy aims to protect Jewish students and ensure that diverse voices are heard and respected, regardless of political or religious affiliation. He motions for an additional 2 minutes of speaking time.

Seeing no opposition, VP Solomon's speaking time is extended by 2 minutes.

VP Solomon states that, in response to consultation with various Jewish student groups, he ensured that Jewish self-determination is upheld and that no student is called a fake or token Jew. The policy ensures that no student be targeted for their relationship to Israel or lack thereof. The PAAS was reviewed by MMGC and SSMU's internal counsel, and both have approved it. Their review ensures that the policy is in line with provincial and federal law and SSMU's internal regulations. The motion does not attempt to resolve all the issues it seeks to address, but VP Solomon hopes that the Council can engage in a respectful dialogue regardless of potential disagreements. This policy is part of a broader process of continued engagement and learning. The community will be stronger when it rejects dehumanization and fascism in all its forms, and accepts multiple forms of expression even when some may disagree with it. He notes that there are many ways of being Jewish, and thanks everyone for their time and engagement with this motion, as well as their commitment to respectful debate.

Member Epstein asks a councillor to motion to suspend the rules to add a motion to create a working group so that all Jewish groups can meet to come to an agreement on a policy on anti-semitism.

Councillor Kohler motions to this effect.

Councillor Tick seconds.

The Speaker entertains a 3' recess to review the motion.

The Speaker states that the Steering Committee approved the motion. He entertains a vote on whether or not to add it to the agenda.

With 8 in favour, 9 against, and 4 abstentions, the motion is not added to the agenda.

The Speaker entertains questions on Motion 11c.





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Member Novodvoretz states that VP Solomon noted which consultations were completed for the motion. He asks for an email to be read out from Jewish student groups noting that they were not adequately consulted. He asks, after this letter is read, whether the groups are still considered to be adequately consulted.

The Speaker states that the Dais reviewed the letter and deemed that some of its sections violate the standing rules. Councillors can read it as they received it by email.

Member Epstein asks for the parts that do not violate the rules to be read.

A member notes that the letter has been read before. She asks for Councillors to read it if they have access to it, to expedite the proceedings.

A member clarifies that it is a different letter than the one read in the past.

VP Zahidah clarifies that the letter being referred to is the one that was sent to councillors, and is not completely different from the one that was read in the past.

Councillor Chen suggests linking the letter to the agenda so that members can read it as well.

The Speaker notes that it will be sent to the Legislative Council group chat.

Member Manevich clarifies that the email was not sent to all councillors as the list of councillors is not up to date on the SSMU website. He adds that this is not the letter that was read out last semester.

The Speaker suggests that a councillor with access to the letter share it with the Council.

Councillor Chen shares the letter with the Council.

Member Novodvoretz notes that the letter was sent to the Speaker this afternoon.

The Speaker asks if this is the letter concerning the amendments.

Member Novodvoretz answers that it is not, it is the other attachment in the email he sent the Speaker.

VP Solomon motions for a 3-minute extension of his speaking time so that he can explain the situation to members of the gallery.

Councillor Crema Black seconds.



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Seeing no opposition, VP Solomon's time is extended by 3 minutes.

VP Solomon advises Councillors and members to refer to Appendix C of Motion 11c. He reads paragraph 14 from the motion. Consultations for the policy began in September when the drafting process began, and continued until the first vote on the motion on November 21. He announced the motion to students via an email, and those interested could contact him. After the listserv was sent out, various students and members from various Jewish student groups reached out to him. He met with groups throughout the semester and Jewish groups consulted for a similar motion in 2018. He fulfilled the consultations duties in advance of the Legislative Council meeting, to ensure that stakeholders could make their opinions heard. They also had the opportunity to present their opinions at the fall General Assembly, yet no questions about the Policy were asked when it was presented. VP Solomon made every effort to consult stakeholders.

Member Ornstein-Ostroff states that consultations do not equate informing groups that an older policy will be amended. Good-faith consultations entails consulting relevant stakeholders from the beginning, not right when it is going to be voted on. This is extremely important given that Jewish groups have repeatedly requested to be included in the policy. Their rights should not be limited to participating in debate periods, when the policy is supposed to protect their needs. Since there has not been appropriate consultations and Legislative Council meetings have been contentious, consultations should not be deemed to have been completed. Jewish groups have been sidestepped and prevented from participating in the policy process.

Member Novodvoretz states that SSMU's IRs state that consultations enable conversations between stakeholders. The IRs define stakeholders as cultural community members of informal or formal groups, not necessarily SSMU members. A stakeholder is someone affected by the policy, and they do not need to be a SSMU member.

Member Milder agrees that discussions at the Legislative Council about this Policy have been exhausting and exasperated. They are a member of McGill Chavarah and they want to see it pushed through. They are frustrated that the discussion is about defining consultations and stakeholders, rather than proposed amendments. They encourage members to propose amendments based on their complaints, and highlight that groups that signed the letters in the fall are Israeli culture and advocacy groups rather than Jewish groups. These groups should not be conflated with Jewish groups.

VP Solomon understands the members' sentiments, and notes that he shared the documentation with the Legislative Council and the public. He reads the Consultation section of Motion 11c. He motions for an additional 3 minutes of speaking time.

Councillor Crema Black seconds.



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Seeing no opposition, VP Solomon's speaking time is extended.

VP Solomon states that he met with the Interim Deputy Provost Angela Campbell to discuss how to synchronize SSMU's efforts with those of the university. The administration was excited that SSMU proposed this policy, because the administration does not have the ability to educate students on anti-semitism. Self-identifying Jewish student groups who were consulted on the 2018 motion and who are still active were consulted this year. It became clear that there were additional groups who wanted to be involved, so he ensured that they were consulted three times. Member Epstein ensured that systemic anti-semitism be included in the policy. He heard from Hillel McGill that there was a concern about advocacy related to the Israel-Palestine conflict, and he ensured that the contentious phrase ("from the river to the sea") was removed at the Legislative Council. VP Solomon also ensured that the right of Jewish people to self-determination would be explicitly included in the policy, as this was not properly addressed prior to this amendment. He was hoping for more feedback of this sort again this time, because Jewish groups can come together.

Commissioner Dube states that she wrote a policy this year with the Francophone Affairs Committee, and notes that she has heard concerns about VP Solomon presenting a draft of the policy during consultations. This is a very common practice. When she wrote her policy with VP Solomon, she already had a draft and the committee members made suggestions based on this draft.

Member Manevich suggests extending the debate period, as they have run out of time.

Councillor Renaud motions to call the question.

Councillor Abu Alkhair seconds.

Member Epstein states that he has sent the Dais amendments to Motion 11c. He asks if this is in order.

The Speaker states that the amendments do not supersede the motion to call the question. They will entertain the motion to call the question first. If it fails, they will return to debate and amendments will be accepted.

Councillor Renaud rescinds her motion to call the question.

Member Epstein states that he has many amendments to propose, which have been sent to the Dais. He asks if a councillor can move the amendments for him.



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VP Solomon states that he does not feel comfortable amending the motion without seeing the amendment first. He asks the Dais to share the amendments so that Councillors can understand what they are voting on.

The Speaker sends the amendments to the Council.

VP Solomon states that motions that subvert the intent of the original motion cannot be proposed. A motion to create a working group on anti-semitism is not an amendment to the policy, it is a subversion of the current motion.

Councillor Renaud motions for the Steering Committee to convene to review the amendments.

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

The Speaker states that the Steering Committee deemed amendments 1, 7, and 9 unfeasible because they do not align with the governing documents. Amendment 1 would change the spirit of the motion, amendment 7 is not in line with the SSMU Judicial Board, and amendment 9 contravenes the constitution and the Collective Agreement. If any councillor wishes to propose amendments 2-6 or 8, they can do so.

Member Epstein states that he wrote most of the proposed amendments. He consulted with representatives from different Jewish groups, and the amendments seek to make those who feel left out of the policy more included. It also makes those who feel like this policy is incomplete feel more comfortable with it, and elaborates on different types of anti-semitism and situates them within historical contexts.

VP Solomon motions to amend Motion 11c to add proposed amendment #3, other than part 3b.

Councillor Tick motions to amend Motion 11c to remove a sentence of amendment 3 referring to Bill 21. This is a larger issue that does not only concern Jewish students.

VP Solomon notes that this is a friendly amendment.

A member states that not all Jewish groups were consulted about the amendment. They are part of McGill Chavurah, which was not consulted on this to their knowledge. They ask for the amendments to be shared.

The Speaker asks the Deputy Speaker to share the amendments with the stakeholders. He asks VP Solomon where he wants the amendment to be added.



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VP Solomon clarifies that it should go in section 3 of Motion 11c.

Councillor Crema Black motions to extend the debate period by 15 minutes.

Councillor Renaud seconds.

Seeing no opposition, the debate period is extended by 15 minutes.

Councillor Abu Alkhair asks what will happen if they reach the scheduled adjournment time without getting through all the motions.

The Speaker answers that the remaining motions will be passed by email.

Member Epstein states that he spoke to Jewish groups opposed to the current iteration policy when developing the amendments, but he is happy to share the document with others. These amendments are the work of those who feel that the policy is inadequate, and removing some of the amendments' contents might not be the best idea, although he understands removing the sentence that mentions Bill 21. Allowing an anti-semitic myth to be removed from the Policy is reprehensible, as these myths exist to harm Jewish people and have done so, especially to Jews from the former USSR. Removing this amendment will foster greater racial anti-semitism on the McGill campus.

VP Solomon thanks Member Epstein for his amendments, and he is happy that he was able to speak to him to understand the amendments. He notes that he was not consulted in advance on these amendments, despite that he gave Jewish student groups three different opportunities for consultation. Some of the amendments are helpful, but some cannot be addressed in the policy due to its limited scope. He hopes Member Epstein can be cognizant of this, given that the amendments were submitted without adequate consultation.

Member Qaqish states that the amendments are long and detailed, and he is concerned that they do not match the level of abstraction in the rest of the policy. This could create an imbalanced policy and interpretive challenges, and it is not a good idea to have some sections be abstract and some be so specific.

Member Manevich states that those who support the amendments believe that they address all relevant types of anti-semitism, including religious and racial anti-semitism, which were not addressed sufficiently in the previous version of the motion. VP Solomon must agree, given that he accepted the amendments.



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Member Epstein asks if an amendment is proposed without one of its provisions, if a later amendment can add the provision that was excluded.

The Speaker answers yes.

Councillor Renaud motions to call the question on the amendments.

The Speaker notes that the remaining provisions need to be suggested first. He notes that they are debating the motion as a whole right now.

Councillor Kumar asks whether all the amendments approved by the Steering Committee need to be proposed by Councillors before being voted on.

The Speaker answers that members cannot propose amendments themselves, so they need councillors to sponsor them. If any councillor wishes to do so, they are welcome to. They are debating the motion as a whole. VP Solomon has accepted amendment #3 as a friendly amendment to his motion.

Councillor Tick motions to amend Motion 11c to add amendment #5, minus the example.

VP Solomon answers that this is a friendly amendment.

VP Zahidah asks where the amendments can be found.

The Speaker answers that he shared it with the Council by email.

A member asks what the status of the amendment is.

The Speaker answers that the Parliamentarian is figuring out where to place the amendment in the motion.

A member asks which part of amendment #5 is a friendly amendment.

The Speaker answers that the amendment is friendly minus the bullet point.

VP Solomon retracts his acceptance of amendment #5. He thinks that the Council should consider that these amendments were proposed at the last minute, which was unnecessary. The detail they need to go into to consider these amendments in the policy is not in the Council's capacity now, as they do not



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have access to the room for much longer. Some amendments seem to have legal implications, and the Internal Counsel is not present right now. VP Solomon does not want to make any legal assumptions.

Councillor Renaud motions to call the question on Motion 11c by anonymous form in an in-camera session.

Councillor Abu Alkhair seconds.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote. He asks the members of the gallery to wait outside the room while voting occurs.

With 5 opposed, 1 abstention, and 14 in favour, Motion 11c is approved.

President Taylor motions to suspend the rules to amend the agenda. He rearranges the motion section to get to the most important business first.

- d. Motion to adopt an interim provision of the IRs of Governance: Legislative Council (art. 11.6) to clarify that the obligation to indicate the vote of each Councillor be suspended for votes by secret ballot for a time lasting from April 3rd, 2025, to April 4th, 2025 – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** (President Taylor)
- e. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Policy on Harmful Military Technology](#) (Councillor Renaud) – **APPROVED**

Councillor Renaud states that the motion is quite different, and hopes that Councillors have read them. At the last meeting, she proposed to repeal the moratorium, but this is no longer the case. The policy now imposes a conditional moratorium. She is unsure if any ancillary fee would meet these conditions, and notes that she would prefer no moratorium at all as she is skeptical of its effectiveness. However, these changes will ensure that the administration will be forced to discuss with students about their involvement in harmful military technology. If the administration wishes to impose new fees or increase existing ones, they have to consult the VP External. This motion is very context-dense; Athletics has been concerned about this moratorium for almost 7 years. Councillor Renaud stands for questions.

VP Zahidah states that the motion is very clear about the criteria for a fee freeze to be waived. She asks Councillor Renaud what she meant when she said that she would prefer no moratorium. She asks if the motion is amended to this effect.

Councillor Renaud clarifies that the motion being presented is the Policy on Harmful Military Technology. She is in favour of the conditional moratorium, but she does not want people to



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mistakenly think that ancillary fees have anything to do with harmful military technology. This was the case when the original moratorium was presented. One of the criteria is that the proposed fee increase or creation has to be proven not to have any involvement with harmful military technology. There are no fees that are related to military technology, so this amendment is mostly for optics. This criteria is a practical way to force the administration to discuss with SSMU when they want to create new ancillary fees. She is fully in favour of the policy as presented in the motion's appendix.

President Taylor motions to call the question.

Councillor Hamele seconds.

The Speaker entertains a vote on calling the question, which passes. He entertains a vote on Motion 11e.

Councillor Renaud motions to vote by secret ballot. She offers to provide a reason for this motion.

Councillor Kumar seconds.

With 9 in favour, 3 opposed, and 8 abstentions, the Speaker entertains a vote by secret ballot.

With 3 opposed, 2 abstentions, and 17 in favour, Motion 11e is approved.

- f. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Consultation Policy](#) (President Taylor) –  
**APPROVED**

President Taylor states that the motion reviews the Consultation Policy, as it was very outdated and wordy. The Governance Reform Committee looked over the Policy and made it a lot less wordy. It is much clearer about consultations and the role and definition of stakeholders.

Seeing no further speakers, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 11f is unanimously approved.

- g. [Motion Regarding Changes to the IRs of Student Groups](#) (Councillor Abu Alkhair) –  
**APPROVED**

Director Abu Alkhair states that this motion proposes changes to the Internal Regulations of Student Groups. SSMU members and unionized staff will now be prioritized when services are hiring, to abide





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by the Collective Agreement. SSMU and union members will be prioritized over non-SSMU members and community members. Non-students can no longer have voting rights or singing authority.

Member Warr states that services provide essential services to students. It would be difficult for students to provide services during exam periods, which explains why many services hire non-students and recent alumni. They understand the priority hirings, but services have expressed that this change does not work for them. Independence has allowed services to function up until now for the past 50 years.

Councillor Gowdy asks if union members will be hired at the exclusion of SSMU members, or if they simply will be prioritized.

President Taylor states that union members are prioritized in hirings as required by the Collective Agreement, but that does not mean that they are more likely to be hired. Seniority is taken into effect as this is mandated by law, but qualifications matter the most when hiring is done.

Member Lapensée asks why this motion has been pushed forward despite services' opposition to it.

Councillor Weissman states that they should not defer to service employees for decisions, given that many services hardly passed their services review evaluations.

VP Zahidah states that these amendments are being brought up in the context of a discussion that took place during the last meeting. She asks what implications these amendments would have for services next year, and for clarification on the restrictions of employment. She asks what priority hiring regulations imply for services' current employees and their operations.

President Taylor answers that the Collective Agreement allows union members to renew their contracts, and to take priority over new applications. Priority hiring would only apply for new roles and new applicants, and services will be in charge of their hirings pending approval of the VP Student Life and the Legislative Council, who is supposed to be the body that governs services. Restrictions of employment would ensure that students have the final say in decisions.

Member Lapensée states that the idea that services should not be consulted because they did not do well on their services review is insulting. Services employees are the ones who provide services, and they should be listened to. They note that they have not received a response to their question.

VP Zahidah asks what would happen for non-McGill students seeking to review their contracts. Union members are not students, they are SSMU employees. Therefore, she asks how union members can



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have priority when the goal of the amendment is to make services more student-run. VP Zahidah asks if these amendments were suggested by the Services Review Committee.

The Speaker notes that students can be union members, as he is one.

President Taylor answers that part-time employees are unionized. The only non-unionized employees are those who have recently received a stipend.

VP Zahidah asks what the regulation that prevents non-SSMU members from being voting members or signing authorities of a service would imply for procedural issues that are taking place with services processing discretionary funding or reimbursements. She states that this motion is misleading because it is not very developed; there are no risk factors associated with it. VP Zahidah asks how these amendments will affect the re-hiring procedure, and if the VP Student Life would be more involved in the hiring of services, if students are going to be prioritized in hirings. SSMU does not have the authority to oversee services hirings.

President Taylor notes that the SSMU has authority over services. ISGs are the only groups that are independent from SSMU. Services should be held accountable to the Legislative Council to ensure they fulfil their mandates. Services hirings and constitutional amendments need to be approved by SSMU, and hopefully the Legislative Council in the future. The priority of hiring regulation will not affect the services, it will only affect unionized employees applying to services.

Member Warr states that services are made for students, and there needs to be a reciprocal relationship between the services, SSMU, and students because the SSMU supports services, which are student-run. Many services hire non-students or non-SSMU members such as graduate students to retain institutional memory. A student who is graduating is a perfect candidate for a part-time job at the service, and ensures that institutional memory is protected. It is absurd to claim that non-McGill community members are being prioritized, as no one from outside the community is looking for a job at services. Employees always have strong ties to the SSMU.

VP Jolicoeur states that in cases where someone has been previously hired at the service, they are unionized, as all part-time positions are unionized. So, they would have seniority and would be prioritized in the future hiring process. Prioritization of SSMU members only comes into play if there are no seniority considerations to make. They are required to prioritize unionized employees because of their Collective Agreement. SSMU members will be prioritized because services should be student-run, but this condition was vague in past iterations of the IRs of Student Groups.

VP Zahidah states that services are struggling due to overlapping or unclear mandates. She wants this motion to be revisited, because it does not provide sufficient context or procedural planning for the



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implementation of these new requirements. There are indeed risks when modifying employment criteria. She would appreciate more detail in the motion, as its bareness feels shady.

Member Lapensée states that the Collective Agreement requires unionized members to be prioritized, so there is no need to pass a motion to regulate it. They note that the SSMUnion was not consulted on this. They do not see the reasoning behind this motion, because the mandate of the motion is outlined in the Collective Agreement.

Councillor Tick motions to call the question.

Councillor Kumar seconds.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote by form.

With 6 opposed, 2 abstentions, and 10 in favour, Motion 11g is approved.

12. Report of the Steering Committee **(3)** — **POSTPONED**

13. Executive Reports **(12)** — **POSTPONED**

- a. Director of Clubs and Services
- b. Vice-President Finance
- c. Vice-President External
- d. [Vice-President University Affairs](#)

14. Reports by Councillors **(3)** — **POSTPONED**

- a. Senate Caucus

15. Committee Reports **(12)** — **POSTPONED**

- a. Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy (GSVP) Committee
- b. Building and Operations Management Committee
- c. Solidarity Funding Committee
- d. [Services Review Committee](#)

16. Adjournment: **21:12**

The Speaker thanks all the Councillors for their work this year, and thanks Councillors Renaud and Weissman for their work on the Steering Committee and Councillor Renaud's two years of service. He thanks the Parliamentarian for her work this year, and the Deputy Speaker, who has worked at SSMU since 2021. He notes that it has been an honour to chair the Legislative Council meetings. The Speaker declares the meeting adjourned at 21:12.