

1. Policy against Genocide in Palestine (PAGIP) Committee

1.1. Oversight

The PAGIP Committee (hereafter “**the Committee**”) will be a committee of External Affairs under the Campaigns and Policy Supportfolio.

1.2. General

The PAGIP Committee shall:

- a. Serve as a forum to research, plan, and effectuate the mandates assigned to the SSMU in the Policy Against Genocide in Palestine;
- b. Facilitate communication and collaboration between students, staff, and faculty from across the McGill and Montréal community engaged in work in solidarity with the Palestinian people; and
- c. Coordinate policy, advocacy, and mobilization efforts across all accessible democratic forums at the student union and university levels to maximize the effectiveness and consistency of the Committee’s efforts in line with section 2.5 of the PAGIP.

1.3. Responsibilities

1.3.1. Executive Committee Responsibilities

- a. In collaboration with the Vice Presidents (External and University Affairs), the Committee will:
 - i. Compose formal letters for the SSMU President addressed to university administrators demanding that they and the McGill Board of Governors issue statements condemning the genocide in line with section 2.1 of the PAGIP;
 - ii. Compose formal letters for the SSMU President addressed to university administrators demanding that they and the McGill Board of Governors take action to divest from and end all academic ties with institutions complicit in genocide, apartheid, or ethnic cleansing in line with sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the PAGIP; and



- iii. Develop and issue public statements, open letters, and press releases in collaboration condemning the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people and affirming the SSMU's solidarity with its Arab and Palestinian constituency in line with section 2.4 of the PAGIP; and
- b. Provide regular updates and strategic recommendations to the Vice-Presidents (External and University Affairs) to ensure the SSMU maintains a strong, consistent position in solidarity with its Palestinian membership and with the Palestinian struggle against genocide and settler-colonial apartheid in line with section 2.5 of the PAGIP;

1.3.2. Senate Responsibilities

- c. In collaboration with the Senate Caucus representative to the Committee and the Vice President (University Affairs) the Committee will:
 - i. Ensure that the Senate Caucus representative to the Committee adopts the objectives of the PAGIP Committee as their Senator project;
 - ii. Assist the Senate Caucus representative in compiling and assembling written reports on the Committee's activities, findings, and recommendations to be presented to Senate Caucus on a semi-annual basis or at the discretion of the Committee;
 - iii. Research and implement education and information-based strategies for the Senate Caucus representative to implement to create broader coalitions with faculty members of McGill Senate; and
 - iv. Assist the Senate Caucus representative in compiling and delivering written, verbal, and visual presentations on PAGIP-related matters at McGill Senate in collaboration with the Vice-President (University Affairs).

1.3.3. Legislative Council Responsibilities

- d. In collaboration with the Legislative Council representative(s) to the Committee and the Vice President (External Affairs) the Committee will:
 - i. Ensure that the Legislative Council representative(s) to the Committee uphold the objectives of the PAGIP Committee throughout their mandate as Legislative Councilor(s);
 - ii. Assist the Legislative Council representative(s) in compiling and assembling written reports on the Committee's activities, findings, and recommendations to be presented to Legislative Council and their respective faculty associations on a semesterly basis or at the discretion of the Committee; and

- iii. Assist the Legislative Council representative(s) in drafting, consulting on, and submitting motions, policies, and public statements to Legislative Council advancing the responsibilities, mandates, and voted resolutions of the Committee;

1.3.4. Advocacy, Mobilization, and Research

- e. In collaboration with the External Affairs Portfolio, the Committee will:
 - i. Advocate for an end to the ongoing genocide in Palestine, the illegal occupation and annexation of Palestinian land, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination;
 - ii. Research actionable ways in which the SSMU can hold itself, in addition to university administrators and the Board of Governors, accountable for their complicity as defined in the PAGIP;
 - 1. This may include, but is not limited to, filing Access to Information (ATI) requests relevant to the Committee's objectives;
 - iii. Compile public reports on McGill's academic, financial, and institutional ties with organizations in violation of international law as specified by the [United Nations](#) and the [International Court of Justice](#);
 - 1. This may include, but is not limited to, compiling a list of all of McGill's existing academic exchanges, partnerships, and affiliations with complicit organisations, regardless of nationality;
 - 2. The Committee will publish these research findings through the McGill Senate, Legislative Council, and other forums per sections 1.3.2 and 1.3.3;
 - iv. Collaborate with the Popular Education and Event Series Coordinator(s) and the QPIRG-McGill representative to ensure that sufficient visibility is given to the ongoing genocide in popular education initiatives, such as *Get Organized!*;
 - v. Undertake and support interunion and/or interfaculty mobilization activities in line with the PAGIP's commitments and the SSMU's legal, governance-related, and organizational limitations;
 - vi. Collaborate with relevant stakeholders and community groups, unions, and organizations to strengthen advocacy efforts and cross-community dialogue across cultural, ethnic, and religious lines;

1.3.5. Advisory Role

- f. In collaboration with its other non-voting members, the Committee will:



- i. Advise the SSMU—particularly the Vice Presidents (External Affairs and University Affairs), as well as the SSMU Legislative Council and Board of Directors—on matters related to Palestine, divestment, student protest, free expression, and the implementation of the PAGIP's mandates; and
- ii. Serve as a consultative and discursive forum for students advancing advocacy initiatives concerning the ongoing genocide in Palestine or other issues within the scope of the PAGIP's mandates;
 1. This may include the development and coordination of implementation strategies; and
 2. Facilitating communication and consultation between stakeholder communities regarding motions, statements, and policies.

1.3.6. Accountability Responsibilities

- g. Where necessary, submit formal complaints to the SSMU Accountability Commissioner and Accountability Committee, supported by compiled evidence of non-compliance or misconduct related to PAGIP mandates.

1.3.7. Reporting and Review

- h. Prepare a year-end report for the External Affairs portfolio summarizing activities, findings, and recommendations.
- i. Review and propose revisions to the Committee's Terms of Reference at the end of each year.

1.4. Membership

1.4.1. Voting Eligibility:

- a. Only current SSMU Members as defined by section 5.1 of the SSMU Constitution may vote on Committee decisions.

1.4.2. Committee Composition:

- a. the External Affairs Policy & Campaigns Lead (Committee Chair, non-voting);
- b. SSMU Vice President (University Affairs), non-voting);
- c. SSMU Vice President (External Affairs), non-voting);
- d. the External Affairs Community Relations & Food Security Lead;

- e. the External Affairs Advocacy & Representation Lead;
- f. two (2) representatives from SSMU Legislative Council;
- g. one (1) representative from SSMU Senate Caucus;
- h. one (1) representative from each SSMU-affiliated student organisation of Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab Students, consisting of, in 2025, (subject to change annually by the Committee's modification of its Terms of Reference)
 - i. The Arab Student Network
 - ii. The Muslim Students' Association
 - iii. The Palestinian Cultural Club; and
- i. six (6) Members-at-Large

The Committee will also consist of the following non-voting positions:

- j. one (1) representative from the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill's (AGSEM) Palestine Working Group (non-voting);
- k. one (1) representative from QPIRG McGill (non-voting);
- l. one (1) PGSS Executive Committee Representative (non-voting);
- m. one (1) CSU Representative appointed by the CSU Executive Committee (non-voting);
- n. one (1) McGill Alumni representative (non-voting); and
- o. one (1) McGill Faculty representative (non-voting).

1.4.3. Changes to the Membership

- a. The Committee may alter its composition of voting and/or non-voting members by adding or removing designated seats by means of a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of the current members;
- b. The total percentage of voting members of this committee must always reflect a composition of at minimum 50% self-identified Arab, Muslim, and/or Palestinian students;
 - i. This mechanism is necessary to ensure the voices and perspectives of key stakeholders are accurately represented.

1.4.4. Appointment Guidelines for Members at Large, Alumni, Staff, and External Representatives.

- a. The two (2) Legislative Council representative(s) and the one (1) Senate Caucus representative to the Committee will:
 - i. Be nominated by their respective bodies during the first meeting of the academic calendar as a part of yearly committee allocation procedures;



- ii. Have their nominations approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of the PAGIP Committee during the next meeting of the Committee on the grounds of
 - 1. Relevant experience;
 - 2. Commitment to the work of the Committee; and
 - 3. Alignment with its objectives as outlined in sections 1.2 and 1.3 ;
 - iii. Have fixed terms of one (1) academic year, after which they may be invited to retain their position at the discretion of the Committee;
 - iv. Be voting members of the Committee.
- b. The one (1) representative of each of the SSMU-affiliated student organisation of Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab Students will:
- i. Be appointed by their respective student organizations according to their own internal processes and procedures during their respective organisations' first meetings of the academic calendar;
 - ii. Have fixed terms of one (1) academic year, after which they may be reappointed to the PAGIP Committee at the discretion of their respective groups' election processes;
 - iii. Be voting members of the Committee.
- c. The one (1) representative from each external organization (AGSEM, QPIRG, PGSS, CSU) to the Committee will:
- i. Be appointed by their respective organizations according to their own internal processes and procedures during their respective organisations' first meetings of the academic calendar;
 - ii. Have fixed terms of one (1) academic year, after which they may be reappointed to the PAGIP Committee at the discretion of their respective groups' election and/or hiring processes;
 - iii. Be non-voting members of the Committee;
- d. The six (6) Members-at-Large on the Committee will:
- i. Apply to the Committee through a Google form accessible on the SSMU Website and Instagram during the first weeks of the academic calendar;
 - ii. Have their nominations approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of the Committee after a satisfactory number of applications are submitted on the grounds of
 - i. Relevant experience;
 - ii. Commitment to the work of the Committee; and
 - iii. Alignment with its objectives as outlined in sections 1.2 and 1.3 ;



- v. Have fixed terms of one (1) academic year, after which they may be invited to retain their position at the discretion of the Committee;
- vi. Be voting members of the Committee.
- e. The one (1) Alumni and (1) McGill Faculty representative to the Committee will:
 - i. Apply to the Committee through a Google form accessible on the SSMU Website and Instagram during the first weeks of the academic calendar;
 - ii. Have their nomination approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of the Committee after a satisfactory number of applications are submitted on the grounds of
 - i. Relevant experience;
 - 1. Specifically, the McGill Faculty representative must either be an active Faculty Councillor, a sitting Senator; or serve in a representative capacity within the University.
 - ii. Commitment to the work of the Committee; and
 - iii. Alignment with its objectives as outlined in sections 1.2 and 1.3.
 - vii. Have fixed terms of one (1) academic year, after which they may be invited to retain their position at the discretion of the Committee;
 - viii. Be a non-voting member of the Committee.

1.5. Meeting

The PAGIP Committee will meet on a biweekly basis unless an exception is made at the Committee's discretion.

1.6. Quorum

Quorum for meetings of the PAGIP Committee will be a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of voting members (subject to change by alteration of these terms of reference by the Committee).

1.7. Reporting

The PAGIP Committee will prepare a report for the Executive Committee with the support of the Vice President (External Affairs) once per semester, in addition to the other reporting mechanisms mentioned in section 1.3 above.

1.8. Committee Specific

1.8.1. Decision-Making

- a. The Committee shall aspire to make decisions by consensus or near-consensus;
- b. Where consensus is not possible, decisions (including those pertaining to membership approval and renewal) may only be approved with a minimum of a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority.

1.8.2. Working Groups

- a. At times, the Committee may choose to create ad hoc or longer-term working groups or other arrangements to undertake specific tasks or obligations;
- b. In such cases the remit of such working groups or teams will be determined by the Committee as a whole.

1.8.3. Guiding Framework

- a. Given the political nature of the Committee's work, the following guidelines are to be used as a framework:
 - i. Voting and decision records of the Committee for individual votes will be strictly anonymized, however, attendance for Committee meetings will not be;
 - ii. Members are bound by an expectation of discretion. Given the increasing repression of pro-Palestine speech, care should be taken to limit the risk of doxxing;
 1. For example, by ensuring members' consent to any activities that may render them identifiable to the general public, on social media, or to McGill processes).
 - iii. The Committee will endeavour to engage in its work with respect to the diversity of opinions and tactics utilized by student campaigns in solidarity with Palestine across the world.
 1. As such, the Committee will remain cognisant of the history of the [SSMU's South Africa Committee of the 1980s](#), which, by employing a number of tactics, succeeded in securing the end of academic and financial ties of McGill University to the Apartheid regime;

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

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.



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- iv. The Committee remains bound by other SSMU guidelines and processes, including but not limited to guidelines and policies concerning EDI, Islamophobia, anti-Arab racism, and antisemitism.
- b. Any violations of the above terms may be grounds for dismissal from the Committee, pending a vote from the Committee (minus the offending member).