

MOTION REGARDING EDITS TO THE ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN AND COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE 2025-09-11

Submitted for: 2025-09-11

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2025-09-11-001
(to be assigned by Steering)

Moved by: Dymetri Taylor
SSMU President **Current Status:** ☐ FOR APPROVAL
☒ ~~APPROVED~~
☐ POSTPONED
☐ COMMITTED
☐ NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Benjamin Yu
Science Representative

Issue The Accountability Plan, institutionalized in April 2024 by the SSMU President, was formally implemented for the first time over the 2024-2025 year, with efforts spearheaded by the Accountability Commissioner. Edits to both the plan itself and the way the Accountability Committee operates seek to fill gaps and clarify existing protocols for continuing to integrate accountability into SSMU operations.

Background and Rationale The Accountability Plan was adopted in April 2024, with the aim of providing both ideological and actionable tenets towards increasing the accountability and transparency of SSMU operations and culture. One of the main mechanisms it proposed was the hiring of an Accountability Commissioner to oversee the Accountability Committee and address accountability-specific concerns and complaints from across the organization, and in a distinct, niche manner to Human Resources and/or Equity-related complaints.

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SSMU Office of the Speaker

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The Accountability Commissioner carried out their mandate for the first time this year, and based on the lessons learned from operating within their portfolio, believes that clearer protocols and details should be institutionalized within the governing documents, most notably related to accountability complaints and reporting.

A key gap was how accountability complaints should be processed and communicated, and how any outcomes should be implemented given the limited jurisdiction of the accountability portfolio to enact sanctions or other disciplinary measures. As such, the edits to the Accountability Plan presented in Appendix A outline the process by which investigations arising from an accountability complaint should be carried out, and when and how the outcomes therein should be reported to the Legislative Council. It is believed this will provide greater transparency between SSMU and the constituency, as well as equip councillors of the Legislative Council with information and recommendations with which tangible action can be carried out if deemed appropriate.

Modifications to the Accountability Committee Terms of Reference, presented in Appendix B, have been made in alignment with those in Appendix A. Notably, it more explicitly outlines the role of the committee in aiding with accountability investigations, and makes clear the criteria under which they are mandated to report to the Legislative Council. It also expands the involvement of the Secretariat to up to three (3) non-voting seats, inviting broader feedback and input into committee operations.

Alignment with Mission

The proposed edits are in alignment with the Accountability Plan, and the principles of transparent leadership, quality of student representation, and provision of mandated services as outlined in the SSMU's Mission.

Consultations Completed

This motion was prepared by the Accountability Commissioner. The following parties were consulted and helped prepare the edits outlined in Appendices A and B: the Policy & Advocacy Coordinator, the Speaker, the SSMU President, and Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary.

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**Risk Factors and
Resource
Implications**

The continued implementation of the Accountability Plan relies on the succession of new Accountability Commissioners, requiring funding and ongoing interest in the position from the constituency.

Additionally, the Accountability Committee has had consistent issues in membership, so consistent recruitment efforts must continue for it to reach quorum and be able to carry out the full extent of its mandate.

**Impact of
Decision
and Next Steps**

If this motion is passed, the amendments to the Accountability Plan and Accountability Committee Terms of Reference will go into effect. The Accountability Commissioner, under the supervision of the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary, will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the mandate.

If this motion fails, while a commitment to accountability will continue to exist via these governing documents, the lessons learned from this year and their potential to constructively build upon the portfolio will have gone to waste, rendering the approach to accountability not as nuanced and context-specific as it could be.

**Motion or
Resolution for
Approval**

Be it resolved that the amendments to the Accountability Plan in Appendix A and the edits to the Accountability Committee Terms of Reference in Appendix B, are adopted.

**Results of the
Vote**

- ☐ In favour (22)
- ☐ Opposed (0)
- ☐ Abstain (0)

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Appendix A

☰ Appendix A: Accountability Plan

Appendix B

☰ Appendix B: Accountability Committee Terms of Reference