



# SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

February 26, 2026

The regular bi-monthly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held in the Lev Bukhman Room on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:22**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:22.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker reads the Land Acknowledgment.

*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.

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

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The agenda is distributed.

The Speaker asks whether there are any proposed amendments.

Councillor Annette Yu moves to suspend the rules to add a Motion regarding interim club status for the Women's Field Hockey team. Councillor Lai seconds.

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

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair requests that the Clubs report be moved earlier in the agenda so that it may be considered before the remaining business of Council.

Seeing no further amendments and no opposition, the agenda is adopted as amended.

5. [Clubs Report](#)-**RATIFIED**

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair presents the Clubs report for ratification.

The Speaker asks whether there are any questions regarding the report.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks whether there is any opposition to ratifying the contents of the report by unanimous consent.

Seeing none, the report is ratified.

6. Minutes for Approval

- a. [SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2026-02-12](#) – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no proposed changes, the Minutes are approved.

7. Report of the Steering Committee **(3)**

President Taylor presents the report of the Steering Committee. He states that Steering reviewed the Motions and the contents of the evening's agenda. He notes that only one item required Steering's

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approval, namely the Motion regarding constitutional amendments. Beyond that, he explains that there is nothing further to report, as the remaining contents of the agenda had already been approved earlier in the meeting.

The Speaker asks whether there are any questions regarding the report.

Seeing none, the report is concluded.

8. Presentations
9. Announcements

The Speaker asks whether there are any announcements on the floor.

- a. Professor Burnham has requested speaking to class about student democracy (Councillor Letham)

Councillor Latham announces that Professor Berman has asked whether any member of Council would be interested in speaking to one of her classes about student-elected democracy.

President Taylor motions to suspend the rules to add Professor Berman's class as a discussion point. Councillor Annette Yu seconds.

Seeing no opposition, the discussion point is added.

Seeing no further announcements, the announcement period is concluded.

10. Executive Reports **(3)**
  - a. [Vice-President External Report](#)

Vice-President Crema-Black presents the report of the Vice-President External Affairs.

The Speaker asks whether there are any questions regarding the report.

Councillor Benjamin Yu asks what was learned from the recent focus group with students who had not voted in past referenda and how those findings may shape election outreach going forward.

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Vice-President Crema-Black responds that the focus group revealed that most students are at least somewhat aware of SSMU, primarily through its clubs, services, and large-scale events, though their overall perception of the organization tends to be neutral. She explains that students who do not vote are often less involved in student life or unfamiliar with SSMU's governance processes. While students do receive election-related emails, she notes that engagement with those communications remains limited. She adds that several barriers to voting were identified, including the length of ballots, the volume of information presented, and uncertainty about the practical impact of individual votes. Many students, she explains, expressed a preference for clear and accessible information that would allow them to understand both what they are voting on and how the outcome may affect student services and funding. She notes that there is therefore a need to strike a better balance between brevity and sufficient context in election communications. Vice-President Crema-Black further states that many students are unable to distinguish between program, faculty, and SSMU-level elections, which suggests a broader communication gap regarding student governance structures. She notes that clearer explanations of these distinctions, as well as more direct informational outreach through election-related platforms, may help improve participation. Finally, she observes that students are more likely to vote when they personally know a candidate, whereas smaller raffle incentives appear to have limited influence on turnout.

The Speaker asks whether there are any further questions.

Seeing none, the report is concluded.

b. [Vice-President Clubs and Services Report](#)

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair presents the report of the Vice-President Clubs and Services.

The Speaker asks whether there are any questions regarding the report.

Councillor Latham asks for clarification regarding the Daycare Board referenced in the report.

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair responds that the item refers to updates received through the Daycare Board.

Councillor Benjamin Yu asks what the general future of the athletics clubs under discussion may look like.

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Vice-President Abu-Alkhair responds that the Committee aims to bring forward Internal Regulation changes in the near future, but that the central issue remains insurance. He explains that there is currently no budget to absorb that cost and that a fee would likely be required if SSMU were to formally house such teams.

The Speaker asks whether there are any further questions.

Seeing none, the report is concluded.

c. [Vice-President Internal Report](#)

Vice-President Mirza presents the report of the Vice-President Internal.

The Speaker asks whether there are any questions regarding the report.

Councillor Annette Yu asks what the plan is for the mascot initiative beyond the collection of student designs.

Vice-President Mirza responds that the current phase is focused on collecting design ideas from students and that the longer-term goal is to develop an eventual mascot, though the process remains in its early stages.

Councillor Lai asks where student mascot submissions are being collected and who will review them.

Vice-President Mirza responds that submissions are presently being placed at the Communications desk and that she and Communications will review them.

Councillor Annette Yu asks why the First Year Council has not met until now.

Vice-President Mirza responds that it has been difficult to contact first-year representatives and that the First Year Council has not been especially active, requiring a degree of rebuilding. She adds that communication has also been slowed by the use of Facebook, which many first-year students do not use.

Councillor Lai asks who is sitting on the Winter Carnival committee.

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Vice-President Mirza responds that the work is currently being developed with input from relevant McGill actors including Athletics, Communications, Security, advisory support, and other individuals still being contacted as planning continues.

The Speaker asks whether there are any further questions.

Seeing none, the report is concluded.

d. [Vice-President University Affairs](#)

Vice-President Aloudat presents the report of the Vice-President University Affairs.

Councillor Annette Yu asks whether Vice-President Aloudat had intended to discuss McGill 24.

Vice-President Aloudat responds that the matter was not included because the relevant discussions had only taken place earlier in the day and nothing had yet been finalized. She states that she did not wish to communicate information that was not official or that might create a false impression before the relevant offices and parties had been fully consulted.

The Speaker asks whether there are any further questions.

Seeing none, the report is concluded.

i. [Black Affairs Committee report](#)

Vice-President Aloudat presents the Black Affairs Committee report.

The Speaker asks whether there are any questions regarding the report.

Seeing none, the report is concluded.

11. Reports by Councillors (3)

a. [Arts and Science](#)

Councillor Dan presents the Arts and Science report.

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The Speaker asks whether there are any questions regarding the report.

Seeing none, the report is concluded.

b. [Environment](#)

Councillor Charles presents the Environment report.

The Speaker asks whether there are any questions regarding the report.

Seeing none, the report is concluded.

c. PT/OT (POTUS)- **POSTPONED**

12. Question Period **(5)**

The Speaker asks whether there are any questions from the floor.

Seeing none, the question period is concluded.

13. Recess**(5)**

The Speaker states that the Secretariat would look favourably upon a Motion to recess.

Councillor Annette Yu moves to recess for eleven and a half minutes.

Councillor Baybayon seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Council enters recess for eleven and a half minutes.

14. Motions

At the start of the Motions section, the Speaker notes that two Motions are removed from the agenda on the basis that they did not have a seconder and were not approved by Steering and were not to be considered that evening. Council then proceeds to the remaining Motions.

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- a. Motion to suspend sections 6.2 and 6.12 of the IRs of Elections and Referenda to allow the related SSMU staff to campaign for the following referenda: - **APPROVED**  
(President Taylor, Councilor Lai)
  - i. Renewal and Increase of the University Centre Fee
  - ii. Renewal of the Anti-Violence Fee
  - iii. Increase of the SSMU Food bank Fee
  - iv. Renewal of the SSMU Daycare Fee

President Taylor presents Motion 14a. He explains that the Motion concerns the temporary suspension of portions of the Internal Regulations relating to campaigning during the ongoing referendum period so that relevant SSMU staff may provide information concerning certain operational fees.

The Speaker asks whether there are any questions regarding the Motion.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks whether there is any discussion on the floor.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks whether there is any opposition to passing the Motion by unanimous consent.

Seeing none, Motion 14a is passed by unanimous consent.

- b. Motion to suspend section 6.21 of the IRs of Elections and Referenda to allow the following external bodies to campaign: - **APPROVED** (President Taylor, Councilor Lai)
  - i. ECOLE for the Increase of the SSMU ECOLE Project Fee
  - ii. The McGill Writing Centre for the Renewal of the McGill Writing Centre Ancillary Fee

President Taylor presents Motion 14b. He explains that the Motion addresses an oversight in the election and referendum regulations, which state that external bodies are not permitted to campaign but do not provide an exception for ISGs for their own fees, even though ISGs are in fact allowed to do so. He notes that this omission was an oversight and expresses the hope that it will be corrected. He further explains that the Motion also concerns the ability of the McGill Writing Centre to provide students with neutral informational material regarding its fee, without encouraging students to vote either in favour of or against it.

Vice-President Aloudat asks whether support from the Vice-President University Affairs campaigning portfolio for the Writing Centre's outreach would be permitted under the proposed framework.

President Taylor responds by saying that they should be switched.

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Vice-President Aloudat Motions to suspend the rules to add another Motion to apply the Writing Centre under the same campaign conditions as Motion 14a, seconded by Councillor Annette Yu.

The Speaker if any are opposed to suspending the rules to add this Motion.

Seeing none the rules have been suspended.

The Speaker asks if there is a seconder for the Motion.

Councillor Annette Yu seconds the Motion.

The Speaker asks whether there are any other questions regarding the Motion.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks whether there is any discussion on the floor.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks whether there is any opposition to passing the Motion by unanimous consent.

Seeing none, Motion 14b is passed by unanimous consent.

- c. Motion to apply the Writing Center fee to the same condition as Motion 14a) (VP Aloudat, Councilor A. Yu)- **APPROVED**

Vice-President Aloudat presents Motion 14c. She states that she wants the Writing Centre to be able to promote its fee increase to students as a resource that supports student needs and that she wants to be able to assist in that outreach.

The Speaker asks whether there are any questions regarding the Motion.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks whether there is any discussion.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks whether there is any opposition to passing the Motion by unanimous consent.

Seeing none, Motion 14c is passed unanimously.

- d. [Motion Regarding Constitutional Amendments 2026-01-29](#) - **APPROVED (17 in Favor, 2 abstaining)** (President Taylor, VP Crema Black, Councillor Bongiovanni, Councillor Letham, Interim-VP Mirza, Councillor Prendergast, Councillor Scott, Councillor B. Yu, Councillor Zaidi.)

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President Taylor presents Motion 14d.

Vice-President Aloudat asks a question regarding the section on Senate caucus and the relationship between the Constitution and the Internal Regulations. She notes that the Internal Regulations state that the relevant faculty association has 30 days to hold an election or appoint someone, and that if the position remains vacant after 30 days, the University Affairs portfolio appoints someone. She goes on to observe that the present wording appears to suggest that, if the student association does not appoint someone within those 30 days and the University Affairs portfolio does not unilaterally appoint someone, then the University Affairs portfolio would instead appoint someone by a two-thirds majority vote?

President Taylor responds that the provision was included in the Constitution because the Constitution takes precedence over the Internal Regulations. He explains that, under the current reading, the matter would first go to the relevant faculty association, which would have 30 days to decide. He adds that, if the University Affairs portfolio were then to appoint someone, that appointment would have to go to LC for ratification by a two-thirds majority vote. He notes that this would become the new procedure. He further explains that this change would prevent future Vice-Presidents University Affairs from appointing Senators at their own discretion, and would also prevent any future change to the Internal Regulations that might otherwise grant that authority to the University Affairs portfolio or to a particular individual. He states that this is why the provision was included in the Constitution in its present form.

Vice-President Aloudat asks whether a wording change may be accepted.

President Taylor responds that corresponding changes will also be made to the governing documents to remove the provision stating that the Vice-President University Affairs may appoint someone unilaterally after 30 days. He explains that this would mean the initial process would remain with the relevant faculty association, and that, if the faculty association does not appoint anyone, the process would then revert to the one specified in the Constitution. He notes that the proposed change takes into account the need to amend the governing documents so that the Vice-President University Affairs is no longer the individual making that original appointment, and that the matter would instead revert to the constitutional procedure.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions regarding the Motion.

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Councillor Benjamin Yu asks how faculty members will be made aware of what the proposed changes mean in practice.

President Taylor responds and explains that, in terms of implementation, the measure would take effect on May 4. He notes, however, that because elections are currently ongoing, he intends within the next week to reach out to the newly elected presidents in order to place them in a group chat and establish at least an initial space for connection and communication. He adds that the sitting president at the time would also be included in that chat. He explains that this would provide a valuable opportunity to work with the faculties in determining what arrangement functions best for them. He further notes that, if faculties raise specific concerns regarding how the process would operate, those concerns could be taken into consideration well before the end of the fiscal year, and changes could accordingly be made to the governing documents to address particular circumstances.

The Speaker asks whether there are any further questions regarding the Motion.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks whether there is any opposition to passing the Motion by unanimous consent.

Councillor Benjamin Yu Motions to change the voting method.

The Speaker proceeds to voting through the online voting form.

Motion 14d is passed with 17 in favour and 2 abstentions.

- e. Motion to add women's Field Hockey to gain temporary interim SSMU club status, it will last until such a time when the team is 1) reinstated by A&R or 2) a new category under SSMU (athletics) is created. - **APPROVED** (Councillor A. Yu, Councilor Lai )

Councillor Annette Yu presents Motion 14e. She states that the Women's Field Hockey team was cut and notes that the members are very kind. She adds that she does not believe there is anything further that needs to be discussed.

The Speaker asks whether there are any questions regarding the Motion.

Councillor Lai asks why the matter is being brought forward at this time rather than when similar teams were previously considered.

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Councillor Annette Yu responds that the matter was brought forward now because it required further consideration and because there were other factors that also needed to be taken into account.

Vice-President Aloudat asks whether the status being proposed is the same interim status that had been used for other teams, or whether it is something different.

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair confirms that interim status had been used.

Councillor Benjamin Yu asks what the teams joining SSMU are seeking in terms of membership and recognition.

Councillor Annette Yu explains that each of the teams is ultimately seeking the opportunity to continue playing and to remain part of a team environment. She notes that, although this may not occur in exactly the same form as before, the central objective is to preserve the opportunity for the teams to exist and compete as club teams.

The Speaker asks whether there are any other questions regarding the Motion.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks whether there is any discussion on the floor.

Vice-President Aloudat adds to the answer previously given to Councillor Benjamin Yu's question. She explains that regular check-ins were held with Athletics and Recreation throughout January and into February. She states that, during those discussions, it became clear that many of the teams could continue to play at nearly the same level or capacity as they had under Athletics and Recreation, provided that they received support through another institutional structure. She notes that, for many of these teams, simply having access to a bank account, an email address, administrative support, and a broader ecosystem of clubs and services would be highly beneficial. She acknowledges that the situation is more difficult for the varsity teams that were cut, but stresses that this does not mean they are unable to continue playing. She further notes that McGill has indicated that it hopes to restore these teams in the future. As such, she explains that the proposed arrangement is not necessarily permanent and would help ensure that teams such as rugby, track, or field hockey continue to exist and compete, rather than having to restart from nothing if they are later reinstated under Athletics and Recreation. She concludes that this gives them the best possible chance of returning to Athletics and Recreation should expansion become possible.

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A friendly amendment is proposed by Councillor Lai to align the wording with prior precedent for comparable athletics Motions.

Seeing no more discussion on the floor, the Speaker asks whether there is any opposed to passing this Motion by unanimous consent.

Seeing none, Motion 14e is passed unanimously.

15. Notices of Motion
16. For Discussion
  - a. Professor Burnham's class

Councillor Latham opens the discussion regarding Professor Berman's class.

Councillor Annette Yu asks whether Councillor Latham, given her existing connection to the professor, might wish to take on the presentation herself.

Councillor Latham explains that she is enrolled in the class in question and therefore considers it somewhat awkward to take on that role herself. She adds that she has, however, already secured an alternate arrangement.

Councillor Gigliotti notes that she and another student who are also in that class are already planning to speak about student government in the class and asks whether Councillor Latham would like to join.

Councillor Latham follows regarding the professor's understanding of the relevant positions and how best to present student governance.

The discussion point is concluded.

17. Adjournment: **20:00**