



SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

November 27th, 2025

The Emergency Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) was held in the SSMU Cafeteria on Thursday, November 27th, 2025, at 19:00.

1. Call to Order: **7:14**

The Chair calls the emergency meeting to order at 19:14.

2. 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.

The Speaker presents the land acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

The Speaker takes attendance.

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

The Agenda is distributed. The Speaker asks if anyone wishes to make any amendments to the agenda. Seeing no changes or opposition, the Agenda is adopted.

5. Report of the Steering Committee (Deputy Speaker Beeai) **(3)**

The Deputy Speaker reports that the Steering Committee met shortly before the emergency meeting and reviewed the Motions. There were some clarifying questions asked. All Motions were approved by the Steering Committee.

6. Announcements
7. Question Period **(5)**
8. Recess, Consent Items **(5)**
9. Motions

The Speaker moves immediately into the Motions under consideration.

- a. Motion to approve that each the following cut varsity teams each be granted temporary interim club status: (President Taylor) - **APPROVED**
 - i. Badminton (men & women), Baseball (men), Fencing (men & women), Figure Skating (men & women), Lacrosse (women), Nordic Ski (men & women), Sailing (men & women), Squash (men & women), and Volleyball (men)
 - ii. Temporary Club status for any given above-mentioned team will last until such a time that that team is either:
 1. Reinstated by McGill Athletics and Recreation, or;
 2. There is the formation of an Athletics category for groups within the SSMU, in which case the team will be granted status under the new category

President Taylor thanks Councilors for attending the first emergency Legislative Council meeting in ten years. This Motion 9a seeks to help the cut Varsity and competitive teams have some kind of status before December in order to be able to compete next year.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

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Councillor B. Yu states he sees this as a temporary measure and asks if there's been consideration of next steps.

President Taylor explains that the ability for the teams to compete next year is dependent on the body they are part of. There will need to be a lot of research by the SSMU and the teams to see what the regulations of governing bodies such as the RSEQ and the Ontario sports leagues would allow. There will need to be discussion with McGill about the SSMU taking on liability for the teams, which, as a club, they necessarily would. For funding, we'd need to have a conversation with University Advancement to be sure they're part of the McGill24 campaign. For sustainable funding, we'd need to consider a fee. It would entail a lot of discussions. The response from the University has generally been that reinstatement of the teams is not possible.

Councillor B. Yu asks, considering SSMU has never had to deal with athletic teams in this way, is there consideration of expertise needed to host these clubs?

Director Taylor responds there are a few athletic clubs already, such as DragonBoat. Many clubs have coaches who they pay, such as the chess club. There's differences of course with athletics that need more expertise, but those are details that probably don't need to be discussed at the moment.

Councillor Bongiovanni states that it is important that we support our colleagues in sports teams. He goes on to ask, since clubs have the right to apply for funding, would these teams also be able to apply for such funding, and if so, what resources do we have to support that?

President Taylor responds that the budgets are substantial, they did fundraising, though some could apply for clubs funding. The bigger question will be whether athletics clubs in the future should have the opportunity to apply for such funding. This is one of the reasons we'd need to examine having a fee, or have donors fund their operation, etc. For Varsity teams it's an entirely different question that is better to be addressed in another Council session.

Vice-President Léger clarifies that currently Tier 2 and Tier 3 teams can access any SSMU funding other than the clubs funding, which is restricted to full status clubs. Some former teams that are now under SSMU and some athletics teams make requests, the average is around \$8,000 per request. For this year the financial impact is minimal since most budgets are done. In the future, though, this could have a significant impact on funding capacity. If they are granted Full Club status, they would have access to

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the full clubs fund, which they currently do not have access to with Interim Club status. So it will depend on what category is decided on tonight, but for this year probably limited to around what we would have been spent anyway.

Councillor Scott asks if the school has provided any plan to transition funds to us or if they just expect us to find \$25k out of nowhere.

President Taylor responds that the clubs have their own bank accounts. There is a possibility that the clubs' current financial resources may be sent to the SSMU, however, that money is the property of McGill and they may just ask the donors where they want the money to go. For the Varsity teams, McGill has no intention of distributing more money to them.

Councillor Chan asks what capacity SSMU has to take all this on, for example will they all have to do reports?

President Taylor responds that only Services need to report, but in theory it would be nice if we could hang team banners and showcase their successes, but they are not required to do so. So, it isn't an additional burden there. However, it is a consideration that we currently have over 290 bank accounts that we manage for the clubs and services and there would be an effect on the Clubs & Services portfolio.

[unknown speaker] asks if a student fee is to be added, what it might be.

President Taylor responds for the Varsity teams alone they would need around \$250,000. Could go up to \$500,000, depending on recurring rental costs for rooms and equipment. If we want teams to be the best in Canada it would be millions, which is not feasible, so we'd likely be looking at \$3 to \$10 per semester.

[unknown speaker] asks if that is for competitive clubs or all clubs.

President Taylor clarifies the \$250k is for varsity teams but not competing clubs, the \$500k could have leftover for the competing clubs, but since competing clubs have been self-funded, it's easier to budget for Varsity teams.

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Vice-President Aloudat mentions that the only Varsity teams on the motion are baseball and badminton. Rugby, field hockey, track, and golf are the other Varsity teams that got cut and are not on the motion since University Affairs will be advocating for them because of their competing status and how it differs from the other teams. So, if that is successful, \$250k should cover the two Varsity clubs and the competitive clubs.

Counselor Bongiovanni asks the Athletics Counselor if this is adequate.

Counselor A. Yu responds that she feels this is the best that can be done and a step in the right direction. A lot of teams just want to compete and this gives them that opportunity.

Vice-President Léger mentions, in terms of financial and logistical capacity for his team, it can be done, but each team will need a bank account, which involves operational and logistical resources and would not be complete before January at least. This also puts a toll on the Clubs Finance Coordinator, who supervises these accounts, which have a high demand. Thus there may be a need for support there. This can be done, but will have a toll on operations in the Finance and Clubs & Services portfolios.

[unknown speaker] asks if there is an anticipated impact on the existing clubs?

President Taylor indicates he does not.

[unknown speaker] asks about the administrative burden the teams placed on McGill, which led to their cuts, and impact on us.

President Taylor explains that McGill Athletics is spread thin compared to before, the amount of hours needed to support these teams, and personnel, which is what their stated reasoning was for the cuts. For us, the teams would be left to themselves to work with their coach and organize their own activities. SSMU's involvement would be administrative only, in terms of reimbursing expenses or handling rare issues such as hazing. We would not have the ability to hire someone, say, to treat 200 people.

Councillor Lai asks if we're not hiring someone to be a support person / RMTs, where would these students go if they are hurt?

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[unknown speaker] suggests they can go to regular medical facilities.

Councillor Bongiovanni asks if there are liability issues with not providing an RMT.

President Taylor states that the students should be covered by their insurance, which they hopefully have.

Vice-President Abu-Alkair reminds Council that this Motion is just to give clubs status, all of these issues will be discussed by the Clubs Committee and then brought back to Council for review. The teams have 4-6 months to keep playing and sort all these issues out.

Councillor A. Yu states that many of the teams didn't even have staff.

Councillor Mitchell [unheard question]

President Taylor if people are upset because of [unheard] it should be directed towards the University and not SSMU.

Councillor B. Yu asks if any consultation has been done with McGill.

President Taylor mentions that in McGill's email about the cutting of the teams it directs people to the SSMU. However, the only preliminary conversations that had happened around bookings for Activities Night when someone from McGill mentioned they would need to have a conversation around clubs and teams sometime, and one conversation the year prior also mentioning that they would need to have a conversation about whether some teams should be moved under SSMU or not, but there was no actual sit down conversation between SSMU and McGill about this or about how to reduce harm to students. He expresses that he does not think McGill will care one way or another.

Councillor B. Yu asks if it's SSMU's intention to temporarily house these clubs or to keep them permanently.

President Taylor states this is a question for the Council to decide.

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The Speaker moves into the discussion period.

Vice-President Crema-Black expresses that she would like to hear from the Vice-President Finance on the pros and cons of an interim status club.

Vice-President Léger states that for funding purposes, full club status gives them access to the Club Fund, whereas the interim status does not give them access to it. Otherwise, operationally, it does not make a huge difference on his end.

Vice-President Abi-Alkair explains when you have interim status it is the first status you get, which lasts one semester. Then you apply for full status, which gives you access to the Club Fund, and you get extended booking hours in the University Centre.

President Taylor feels it doesn't matter so much which type of status they receive as they will be creating an Athletics category. Currently they can't apply for funding anyway since they're still technically funded by McGill. We have the choice on how to organize this.

Vice-President Aloudat expresses interim status makes the most sense considering Motion 9b.

[unheard question]

President Taylor explains that for some of the teams cut, the coaches will not be employed for the next little bit. Some of the coaches will continue to be employed by McGill. In theory it will be easier for us if we have someone working continuously with expertise, could be contractors, could be a Unionized staff member, it would all depend on how the structure will end up working.

[unknown speaker] asks if Vice-President Abu-Alkair has plans on how the creation of the clubs and their operations will be supported.

Vice-President Abu-Alkair explains there will be orientation, creation of a constitution etc. The Clubs Committee will support this, but this should not interfere with regular club renewals. Onboarding is pretty straightforward and is done by him and the Clubs Coordinator.

Vice-President Aloudat motions to call the question. Councilor A. Yu seconds.

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Vice-President Aloudat retracts her Motion. Seeing no opposition, the Motion is retracted.

Vice-President Aloudat motions to amend Motion 9a to say “interim club status.” Councillor A. Yu seconds. President Taylor indicates he considers this a friendly amendment.

The Speaker amends the Motion.

Councillor A. Yu motions to call the question.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9a is approved unanimously.

- b. Motion to assign the Student Groups committee with the responsibility to meet with the objective of planning the formation of an Athletics category for groups within the SSMU with a report of their plan and/or findings to be presented to Council by the scheduled Council meeting on January 29, 2026 at the latest. (VP Aloudat) - **APPROVED**

Vice-President Aloudat presents Motion 9b. She explains that because the teams are being given temporary club status, it is important that SSMU should examine how they will be properly integrated. She proposes that the Student Groups Committee be the one to come up with a proposal.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Seeing none, the Speaker opens the floor to discussion.

Councillor B. Yu asks who is on the committee.

Vice-President Abu-Alkair names the members [to fill in].

[unknown speaker] asks who will oversee the Athletics category.

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Vice-President Aloudat states that all clubs and services are under the Vice President (Clubs & Services) but we await the recommendations of the committee for full details.

Councilor A. Yu motions to call the question.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9b is approved unanimously.

- c. Motion for a special referendum, with the campaign and voting period to last from 20:00, November 28th to 20:00, December 4th, 2025. (President Taylor) - **APPROVED**

President Taylor presents Motion 9c. This referendum will help SSMU ascertain how the student body feels about this situation. Even if McGill does not change its position, if students are in favour it could provide some pressure. At the very least, this provides the Varsity teams and competitive clubs an avenue to push the student body to participate. While there are petitions out, McGill disregards them since it is not sure that they are University members. This would gather information on what the students care about on this issue.

It is a short voting period, because of the upcoming exam period. If needed, we could make an exception to the IRs to extend.

Finally, this would help the argument that McGill is not acting in the best interests of the students.

Councilor B. Yu asks about the likelihood of McGill reacting to pressure.

President Taylor points to the recent Strike Motion as an example, since McGill was impressed with the number of students that did participate in that vote. They saw it as enough students participating that they reacted saying it was democratically decided. Similarly, when it came to instating the Fall reading break, McGill followed what students voted on. So they acknowledge what students vote on and that it is important. Whether it has any impact on this process remains to be seen. If students all vote to pay extra money to keep the teams it may have a larger effect.

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Vice-President Aloudat adds that the Charter of Student Rights states that the Administration is to make decisions in the best interests of the students, and this referendum question would be a powerful way to demonstrate that the decision was not in their best interest.

Councillor B. Yu asks about teams filing a grievance.

Vice-President Aloudat states that, if they move forward with the grievance, it would be very helpful to show a violation of student rights.

The Speaker opens the floor to discussion.

President Taylor asks to change the motion so that the election will start at 8 pm to give more time to Elections SSMU.

Councillor B. Yu wonders if it is in the best interest of the teams to have separate questions on each team, or if this could lead to unequal results.

President Taylor understands the concern, but he thinks it's important for students to have the ability to decide which they agree with and which they don't, especially given they pay for it. If students feel one of the teams cut was rightly cut, they should be able to express this.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9c is approved unanimously.

- d. Motion to approve the Plebiscite question of 'Do you agree that the ____ (Varsity team or Competitive Club) should be reinstated' to be created for each team that was cut, with answers consisting of 'yes,' 'no,' or 'abstain.' Furthermore, the ballot contains further information linking to the announcement made by A&R regarding the cutting of the teams. (President Taylor) - **APPROVED**

President Taylor presents Motion 9d. He mentions that each question will have to correctly state whether the team is a Varsity Team or Competitive Club. We could include news articles on the ballot, one on each side, or just leave it as is. We could also include other plebiscite questions asking about students' feelings about the cuts.

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The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Vice-President Aloudat asks if there will be whereas clauses.

President Taylor responds that ideally each team would include whereas clauses, though given the short turnaround time this may not happen.

[unknown speaker] asks if it would be best to have one holistic question and then ask about each team.

President Taylor says he's open to all options.

The Speaker opens the floor to discussion.

Vice-President Aloudat expresses that her hope is to use the results to advocate to the University, she thinks it is very important that it be divided between each team so it is very clear and indisputable to the University the support from students.

Councillor B. Yu thinks in this very short period and with new information coming out, there should be more consensus.

Councillor Zaidi agrees and worries what will happen if one team receives a “no” vote.

President Taylor amends the Motion to say “Varsity Team or Competitive Club.”

Seeing no opposition, the Amendment passes.

The Speaker moves to a vote on the Motion.

With 25 in favour, 0 abstaining, and 3 opposed, Motion 9d is approved.

10. Notices of Motion

11. For Discussion

a. Athletic Funding

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President Taylor states that a confidential memo was sent to the Faculty associations. This explains the results of the KPMG report and the comparables at other Universities.

Vice-President Aloudat asks for the breakdown of Varsity teams and clubs and what the numbers are at other Universities.

President Taylor says the report has 30 Varsity teams (though there are actually 26) and 20 clubs total.

Vice-President Aloudat points out that now with the cuts, McGill has less clubs than comparable Universities, though still has more Varsity teams.

12. Adjournment: **20:56**

The Speaker declares the meeting adjourned at 20:56.