



# SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC AGENDA

January 29, 2026

The regular bi-monthly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) was held in the Lev Bukhman Room on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:09**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:09.

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.

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

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The agenda is distributed.

Seeing no proposed changes, the agenda is adopted.

5. Minutes for Approval

- a. [SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2025-11-27 EMERGENCY MEETING](#) –

**Approved**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no proposed changes, the Minutes are approved.

- b. [SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2026-01-15](#) – **Approved**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no proposed changes, the Minutes are approved.

6. Approved Email Motions

- a. [The Motion Regarding PGSS Access to the SSMU Food Pantry](#) moved by VP External Crema-Black and Councillor Letham (15 in favor, 1 opposed, 2 abstained)

The Speaker reminds Council of the approved email Motion.

Vice-President Crema-Black explains that the Motion is to keep status quo until PGSS decides to put this fee on their ballot. If they do not, we remove access. If they do, then we wait until the results of the referendum. PGSS also asked if they could give a lump sum of money in case their members vote against it, which she is not sure about.

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

President Taylor talked through the Notice of Motion. They determined no rules were breached and added it to the agenda.

8. Announcements

The Speaker asks if there are any announcements. Seeing none, she moves to the next item on the agenda.

9. Executive Reports **(3)**

- a. [Vice-President External](#)

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Vice-President Crema-Black presents the report.

Councilor B. Yu asks about the Milton-Parc Committee. Vice-President Crema-Black explains she has monthly meetings with the CCMP, they met recently in the University Centre along with many food-insecurity groups on campus, to discuss how to combat food insecurity in the community and to put together initiatives that benefit the community and to overall raise and increase student engagement with the community. There were representatives from SNAC, there's a mushroom growing group, etc. Some great contacts were established. One of the outcomes is that on Feb 9-13 there will be a winter clothing drive in the UC, people can drop off clothing and it will be given to the Open Door initiative.

Counselor Lai asks about UTILE. Vice-President Crema-Black also mentions that UTILE aware at Activities Night, and there will be posters going up soon about their offerings. Right now their housing is open only for SSMU members. The apartments are nice and affordable, and include wifi. The building also has study space, a bike room for storage. There is information on our Instagram.

Councilor B. Yu asks about the upcoming elections and how Councilors can be involved with the engagement aspect.

Vice-President Crema-Black states that a form will be sent in SSMU's listserve and for Faculties to send out in their listservs to solicit feedback. Then we will host working groups (likely paid).

Councilor B. Yu asks if there are other ways SSMU is planning to promote this question. Vice-President Crema-Black answers there will be tabling as well.

Councilor A. Yu asks when the petition to the National Assembly regarding the Athletics cuts will be going out. Vice-President Crema-Black says it will be when they have enough signatures and when the Athletics students feel it is ready. It also depends when the National Assembly meets.

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

Vice-President Aloudat presents her report.

Councilor B. Yu asks about the Campus access Policy.

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Vice-President Aloudat answers that the Board of Governors are currently writing a Campus Access Policy, which they claim is just codifying standard practice, but many senators believe it to be tacking on additional security measures and protest control onto something that is already standard practice. Because Senate's purview is academic affairs, there is debate as to whether campus access counts as being under their purview. It had only been brought to Senate for information, and not for endorsement or approval. They are doing some consultations. She believes they are intent on passing the policy, but will take a serious look at it again, especially disproportionate impacts on groups who are on campus legitimately and to put more guardrails on when the policy will be used, so it can only be used in situations of actual risk and not perceived risk.

Councilor Cahil?] states that in the Arts Faculty they were talking about AI, and how SSMU provides Grammarly and some of the professors were upset about it. She asks what SSMU is doing to combat the unethical use of AI.

Vice-President Aloudat states that it is not SSMU's role to police students' use of technology. She interprets "unethical" as something that is a threat to someone, not as a tool to help in class. AI is so new, parameters are shifting every day, it is so hard to know where to draw a line. She feels it is not correct to draw lines on behalf of the 25,000 students more generally. Grammarly is provided as part of SSMU's student accessibility portfolio, it helps with editing and grammar. It is powered by AI, but she does not consider it unethical, especially if the student is not in a language class. It is like when google corrects words. She encourages Councilors to direct professors or administrators who are concerned to her. She would like this to be a two-way conversation, especially at the AI panel.

Councilor Gigliotti mentions her concern during the conversation in Arts was the context of academic discipline, as it sounds like the University wants to crack down on the use of AI and were discussing how services like Grammarly can result in academic discipline issues. Is SSMU ok with this, even when many professors are not ok with it. While it is not our job to draw a line in the sand, to an extent it is SSMU backing using tools, since they are providing it, and students could get into trouble if they are not aware Grammarly could be considered AI "cheating" under academic discipline contexts.

President Taylor clarifies that the AI function on Grammarly is turned off.

Councilor Oelbaum asks about DABI. Vice-President Aloudat explains they have been reinstated in december, with the idea that their governance will align with MUS.

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Councilor Bayabayon asks how the situation with Convocation arose when they are required to accommodate religious conflicts.

Vice-President Aloudat expresses her frustration, saying that she is on the Honorary degrees and Convocation Committee specifically because it was important to her to make sure that Convocation dates were scheduled around the important 3-day Muslim holiday. Convocation is from May 26 - June 4 and the holiday is from the 26-31. Very early in the year she had communicated to the secretariat saying it would be helpful if Convocation could happen before those dates. When they sent the schedule, they did not do so and in fact scheduled the biggest Faculties to have Convocation during Eid. She was hoping it would be a conversation, but it just went to a vote and passed. So she had tried her hardest to accommodate, but it is possible to change your date to convocate with a different Faculty, which is not ideal.

Finally, Vice-President Aloudat notes that in the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, it is a high burden to police and discipline based on AI use, so while faculty members may want to do so, it is not supported in the Code.

c. [Vice-President Clubs & Services](#)

Vice-President Abu-Alkair presents his report.

Councilor Latham asks about the McGill Students for Uyghur Solidarity and whether it is leaning more towards Club status or political action since there's some confusion between this and Vice-President Crema-Black's report.

Vice-President Abu-Alkair mentions they are an interim status club now, currently applying for full status.

Vice-President Crema-Black clarifies that SSMU is currently supporting them as though they are a Political Campaign. There is no protocol yet, so we don't have things like affiliated SSMU political campaigns, but she assumes that will come in the future, however, she is treating it as such, she met with them and offered support to create proposals and get External Affairs support. They are an SsMU political campaign we are taking care of. She's not sure what they are in the Clubs realm.

10. Reports by Councillors **(3)**

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a. [Arts \(AUS\)](#)

Councilors Bongiovanni and Gigliotti present the report.

Councilor Lai asks about the personnel problems.

Councilor Gigliotti mentions so past interpersonal issues that had made relationships, for e.g. with SUS and CAPS, more challenging. The issue was on the AUS side and has now been dealt with.

Councilor B. Yu asks about the BA restructuring.

Councilor Gigliotti clarifies it is happening in the Student Affairs Committee, which is less AUS but rather involves the arts Faculty itself. She offers to put him in touch with the AUS VP Academic to get more of an idea of what is happening.

b. [Music \(MUSA\)](#)

MUSA VP UA Moss presents the report.

c. Dentistry (DSS) - **POSTPONED**

d. [Engineering \(EUS\)](#)

Councilors Mitchell and El Muir present the report.

Vice-President Aloudat asks about the Engineering senator. The current one replaced the original senator, and he is excellent - she was wondering how EUS chose him, as he was not elected.

Councilor Mitchell confirms it was via application and selection committee.

Vice-President Abu-Alkair mentions that one of the EUS clubs has approached SSMU about becoming a SSMU club.

11. Reports by Committees **(3)**

12. Question Period **(5)**

The Speaker asks if there are any questions.

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President Taylor asks about the question form and the Parlpro cheat sheet.

The Speaker explains that she created an anonymous question form that Councilors may use, which is in the Drive. She also added the Parlpro cheat sheet to the drive, which is preliminary - a better one will be added shortly.

13. Recess, Consent Items (5)

14. Motions

- a. Motion for Pizza and board game for bonding activity not at SSMU - **POSTPONED**
- b. Motion to ask the bar manager before deciding on Motion 14a following which asking the Speaker to send out the form to the rest of the Council regarding the decision - **APPROVED** (19 In Favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstaining)

15. Notices of Motion

- a. [Notice Of Motion Regarding Constitutional Amendments 2026-01-29](#)

President Taylor motions to increase his speaking time to ten minutes. Councilor El Murr seconds. Seeing no opposition, the extension is granted.

President Taylor presents the Notice of Motion.

He explains that the working Group has been meeting to discuss changes to the Constitution. The aim was to look at what the society was doing well and what issues have emerged that could be improved upon. Historically, the Legislative Council has been the chief decision maker for the society. This changed in 2016 when the general manager at the time noticed that because of our liquor permit, all directors needed to be Canadian citizens or Permanent Residents, which led to our current structure. We've had some issues, such as the McCool and bardami case, as well as a change to the role of Legislative Councilors, where it used to be the Councilor felt like a SSMU rep who brought information to the Faculty, now it is more like they represent their Faculty first and SSMU second. A lot of the conversation was around trying to fix some of these issues.

He mentions this Motion is still very much in consultation mode, so any feedback is welcome. He encourages Councilors to bring it to their Faculties.

For the Board of Directors, the idea of changing the name to College of Directors is more of a re-brand- while it is a Board, it conveys trust in the Society to run and function rather than control.

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Powers of the Board remain the same, as per the *Corporations Act*. Lots of decisions were going to the Board that could have been done by Legislative Council. The previous composition originally was the President, VP Finance, 2 Officers and 8 Members at Large, which became 4 Councilors and 4 Members at Large. The changes to the Board Composition are intended to make it more procedural, and Legislative Council can be entrusted with the majority of decisions. The General Manager represents the full time staff and provides insight into capacity. Member Emeriti takes into account the lack of institutional memory when the composition rolls over year to year. The terms of office changed from November to May to June to align with faculty appointments. The proposal about removals is intended to share the responsibility with Legislative Council. For meetings, we had changed it last year so that Board meets once a month and Council every two weeks. Here the proposal is that the Board meets monthly over the summer and then, starting in the fall, switch to meeting every two months. Emergency meetings can still be called if necessary. The rest are procedural fixes, especially to make things more concise. The proposal is to give the legislative Council powers of the Board between meetings. The school of Social Work and McDonald Campus were added in to Council. Remuneration was slightly changed whereby Legislative Council can authorize reimbursements. The addition of the Senate section codifies its existence, and clarifies membership while allowing some flexibility. For the Officers, it clarifies they must be Members while they are Officers of the society, specifies they must abide by the Governing Documents, Council can hire the VP Finance.

President Taylor motions to extend his speaking time by another ten minutes. Councilor Latham seconds. Seeing no opposition, the extension is granted.

Regarding removal from office, right now the only way Officers can receive disciplinary action is through a referendum period, or for Directors to remove them. We've decided to expand that process to have some leeway there and have Legislative Council be involved in the process. Having removal processes be possible by the Board of Directors, Legislative Council and General Assembly is on the advice of the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary. Other changes involve the ability of Council to decide to replace Officers by appointment rather than by-election, particularly for issues of timing. The Officers positions have been expanded on and changed based on current practice and to allow for further adaptations moving forward.

Further language updates to the Executive Committee section relate to the Executives being caretakers of the Society so they shouldn't be making decisions without some oversight. There is also an added report to the Legislative Council about actions and approvals they have done, and the Legislative Council and Board can review. Finally, the restriction on their power was amended to say the Executive

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Committee cannot create or alter Governing Documents of the Society. Right now they can choose to amend without authorization.

Removal of General Manager was changed to just say they could be removed for cause, as they are an employee and this allows the process to proceed more like a regular employment process.

General Assemblies themselves are detailed in the Constitution, but, on advice of the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary, the procedures are detailed in the Internal Regulations. Thus in the future, increases or decreases in quorum, for example, can be done by Council and don't need a Constitutional Amendment. General Assemblies can be initiated by Members of Council now. For Strike General Assemblies, quorum is listed as remaining 500 members, which is around 2% of the Members. It was discussed how representative this would make strikes, but ultimately it was decided to leave the quorum levels as is.

Everything else was mostly housekeeping, for e.g. some clarifications in the Judicial Board section, and also clarifying that English or French needs to be used in meetings and documents of the Society. Currently, in theory, that is not an obligation.

Councilor A. Yu asks if this would be enacted in the Fall or right after the referendum passes.

President Taylor responds that the Motion specifies it would go into effect May 4, 2026.

Vice-President Aloudat thanks the Committee for their work. She also expresses disappointment at not being consulted on the sections relating to the Vice-President University Affairs or Senate Caucus portfolios. She believes a monthly report from Senate Caucus is excessive and should be amended to once a semester. She also notes there are no official documents of Senate Caucus and wonders if she is expected to create some.

Vice-President Léger asks how in-depth the legal consultation was. President Taylor answers she was very involved. Vice-President Léger asks if the new rules means the Executive Committee would have no power to amend any policy or practices, which would mean they have no capacity to manage. President Taylor responds that the Executive Committee would have all the powers to govern the day to day business of the Society, for example, the HR-related policies, the protocols, etc. but would not be able to amend things like the more political policies.

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Councilor A. Yu asks about the rationale of changing from Board of Directors to College of Directors. President Taylor mentions that this was done due to feelings among students that the Society is being run more like an undemocratic corporation than a Society, so this helps convey the idea that we want things to be run more democratically.

[The Councilors discuss the font of the Constitution for a few minutes.]

Vice-President Léger asks what the rationale is for having the Board meet in September, November, January, March and May. President Taylor responds that the idea was they wanted to start in September, but it could be changed to start later.

An anonymous question was asked to Vice-President Léger regarding why he asked about legal consultation. Vice-President Léger responds he also happens to be a law student and has been in discussions with the Internal Counsel as well, and he notes there may be some issues regarding delegation of power and there may be some inconsistencies with legal obligations under section 92 of the Companies Act.

Vice-President Aloudat asks for further information. Vice-President Léger explains that section 92 of the Companies Act gives the power to the executive committee which can be given the powers of the Directors between meetings. The question he has is whether the Board of Directors delegate power to Legislative Council so it has some of the powers of the Executive Committee. Also some of the powers being given to Legislative Council may be exclusively for the Directors. President Taylor notes that in the section on Legislative Council takes into consideration that there are powers reserved by the Board under the Companies Act.

The Speaker moves into discussion on the Notice of Motion.

Vice-President Aloudat mentions that 10.5 does not outline how removal from Senate Caucus works, would the VP UA need to submit a Motion or some other mechanism? She also believes it is unrealistic to ask the VP UA to submit every recommended student for a committee to Legislative Council. She suggests it would be better to create a way for Councilors to recommend potential students to the VP UA. Otherwise the timeline will be extremely difficult. Her feeling is that the intention behind the changes in 10.7 are already covered in other Governing Documents. She further suggests elaborating in 8.10 that the person who reports on Committee activities should be the Councilor who sits on that committee.

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Councillor Zhang asks for clarity on the relationship between the Board and Legislative Council. President Taylor explains their respective roles. He goes on to clarify that Legislative Council has become just the political wing of the Society, and to the Board has been doing more, and practically, because the Executives are members of the Board, it tends to be their perspective that dominates the Board. A Board is supposed to be more focused on strategically what is best for the Society and less about the management and operations. Before we had a Board, Officers reported to Legislative Council. Now, the way it is structured, the President oversees the Executives, which doesn't make sense. It is also easy for executives to get their friends on the Board, which is not as representative.

Councillor Lai suggests clarifying what is meant that Senators are appointed by the Society, and also suggests adding that they are selected by their Faculties. President Taylor clarified that Senators are representatives of the Society, and the reason it doesn't include the mention of Faculties is that Senator is a role that exists solely in the SSMU. The SSMU technically is the one deciding, but has given the logistics of the Senate appointments to the Faculties. So while they represent their Faculty, they are not actually representatives of the Faculty Association. Councillor Lai also asks about how Legislative Council would appoint a Senator. President Taylor explains this provision is there in case a student is appointed that does not reflect the values and vision of the Society. Vice-President Aloudat mentions that in the IRs it says if a seat is vacant, the Faculty has 30 days to appoint someone, so it is not based on the VP UA. She proposes that it would be better to amend the IRs of Representation and Advocacy to say that instead of the VP UA can replace a Senator with anyone, the VP would make a representation to Council.

Vice-President Léger says that section 11.10 needs to be amended to have the Directors give the powers to the Officers, per the law. He also states that the definition of Governing Documents would include things like the HR policies, so that would also need to be clarified so HR Policies are excluded. He further mentions that it is not specified how the process for the selection of Board members will take place. Finally, while he agrees with the principle of trying to increase engagement and accountability, he's trying to understand how these changes would lead to these objectives. By electing members who are already elected, he's not convinced it would produce better results than the previous model. In general, he believes this whole discussion deserves more reflection.

Vice-President Aloudat states she thinks it could be problematic not to specify the seat from each Faculty on the Board. Voters in each Faculty should know what functions the executive they are voting for will have. Each seat also doesn't represent the same number of students. She thinks it would make sense to be the VP External of each Faculty.

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Vice-President Léger asks why the Judicial Board is being kept and suggests it might make more sense to just have the Board of Directors do that work. President Taylor explains that the Judicial Board used to be very active before 2016, particularly around elections and referenda. Recently it has done less. The new protocols passed earlier this year mean that other bodies hear complaints first (for example an equity complaint would go to the Equity Committee). We might look into removing the Judicial Board.

Vice-President Aloudat states that, regarding the languages requirement, because we have so many clubs related to cultures and communities, sometimes we receive complaints where evidence is not in French or English. She recommends that this may be something to clarify, particularly with regards to the Equity policy. She also asks about whether Council has the power to fill a vacancy on Council.

President Taylor says for now it will depend on the body that chose the Councilor how to fill the vacancy.

[unheard question]

[unknown speaker] says it is something they can bring back to be discussed and let Council know.

16. For Discussion

a. Bonding (VP Abu Alkhair)

Vice-President Abu-Alkair reminds Council that in the previous meeting they had discussed many options to increase bonding.

Council discusses the following options.

- i. Karoke
- ii. Escape room
- iii. Pizza and board games

The discussion results in Motions 14a and 14b.

b. Out of province perspective for Globe and Mail (Vice-President Crema-Black)

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Vice-President Crema-Black explains that she was contacted that day by the Globe and Mail and they are looking for out-of-province students' perspectives on higher tuition, both existing and what is being proposed by Quebec. She invites Councilors or anyone they may know who have been affected by the out-of-province tuition rate to contact her at [external@ssmu.ca](mailto:external@ssmu.ca).

**17. Adjournment: 20:55**

The Speaker adjourns the Legislative Council at 20:55.

APPROVED