



SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

February 12, 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 12, 2026, at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:17**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:17.

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.

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

The agenda is distributed.

The Speaker asks whether there are any proposed amendments.

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair requests that Motions 14g, 14h, and 14i be moved earlier in the agenda. He clarifies that the motion regarding student group fees is being brought forward by the Student Groups Committee, rather than by him personally.

The Speaker asks whether there is any opposition to reordering the motions.

Seeing none, the motions are moved to Motions 8a, 8b, 8c accordingly.

The Speaker asks whether there are any additional amendments to the agenda.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks whether there is any opposition to adopting the agenda as amended.

Seeing none, the agenda is adopted.

5. Minutes for Approval

- a. [SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2026-01-29](#) – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no proposed changes, the Minutes are approved.

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

Deputy Speaker Beeai presents the report of the Steering Committee. All motions appearing on the agenda have been reviewed and approved by Steering with little to no recommendations. A small number of motions are temporarily returned for consultation with relevant Vice-Presidents, most notably the VP Finance regarding fee-related motions. Following consultation, those motions are approved by Steering.

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The Speaker asks if there are any questions regarding the Steering report.

Seeing none, the report is concluded.

7. Announcements

The Speaker asks if there are any announcements.

a. Positions Book (Coordinator Brown)

Policy & Advocacy Coordinator Brown announces that work on the Positions Book is ongoing and invites interested individuals or faculty representatives to contact her.

b. Student Learning Experience Survey (Councilor Lai)

Councillor Lai announces that a survey on student learning experiences is being conducted. She requests that Senators coordinate with their respective VP Communications to promote the survey. She encourages Faculty Associations to consider offering incentives for participation and asks members to share contact information for Faculty Presidents or VP Communications.

c. Reflection Zone Opening (VP Aloudat)

Vice-President Aloudat announces that the sixth floor of McLennan Library has reopened following resolution of a mold issue and that the new Reflection Zone is officially open as a quiet meditation space.

d. 'Open Door' Winter Clothing Drive (VP Crema-Black)

Vice-President Crema Black announces a winter clothing drive in partnership with Open Door, a community organization located on Avenue des Parcs. Donations are collected outside the student lounge from 4:00–6:00 PM from Monday through the following Monday.

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The Speaker asks if there are any other announcements on the floor.

Seeing none, the announcement period is concluded.

8. Motions

- a. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on Renewal of the WUSC Student Refugee Program Fee](#) (Student Groups Committee) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair presents the motion and introduces Mohammed Alnatour, VP SRP Development of WUSC McGill.

The Speaker asks if there are any questions directed at this motion.

President Taylor asks what is WUSC and what it does.

Mohammed Alnatour responds that WUSC stands for World University Service of Canada. It is a Canadian non-profit organization that has existed for more than 50 years, with the main objective of improving access to higher education. He explains that WUSC runs many programs across different countries. One of those programs is the Student Refugee Program (SRP), a sponsorship program through which groups of students or staff at Canadian institutions, including McGill, conduct private sponsorships to bring students from war zones to study at McGill. He states that recent statistics show that only 6% of refugees have access to higher education. Since 1986, WUSC has brought 90 students to study at McGill. Of those 90 students, only five would have otherwise had access to higher education. He shares that he is himself a refugee from Lebanon and states that without this program he would not have had access to education.

The Speaker asks if there are any questions regarding Motion 8a.

Councillor Bongiovanni asks how funds are allocated for refugees and whether the government suggests particular candidates to receive funding.

Mohammed Alnatour responds that the government does not control who the program selects. The program operates its own selection committees under WUSC directly, with multiple local programs in regions such as the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Africa. Officers in those countries conduct the

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selection process in collaboration with the main offices in Canada. He explains that selected individuals must be eligible to go through the immigration process. He clarifies that sponsored individuals do not arrive on study permits but rather as permanent residents. WUSC selects candidates and sends their profiles to local committees, which then forward them to admissions. The admissions office ultimately has the final say regarding acceptance.

The Speaker asks if there are any further questions.

Seeing none, this concludes the question period.

The Speaker asks if there is any discussion on the floor regarding this Motion.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any opposition to the Motion.

Seeing none, Motion 8a is passed by unanimous consent.

- b. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on Increase of the WUSC Student Refugee Program Fee](#) (Student Groups Committee) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair presents the motion.

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

Councillor Annette Yu asks for clarification regarding the increase from six students to nine and asks for the anticipated number of additional refugee students this increase would allow to come to McGill.

Mohammed Alnatour clarifies that the current number sponsored this year is nine students. This is because, four years ago, following events in Afghanistan, McGill pledged four seats funded directly by the university specifically for Afghan students under the SRP. Over the past years, only two of those four seats have been utilized. The standard recommended number of sponsored students is six or seven. With the two additional Afghan seats, the total is currently nine. He explains that they first wanted to test whether they were able to handle and support more students this year, and given that they are confident in their capacity, they are proposing an increase. Based on the current projections

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provided in the motion, they are able to sponsor up to ten students per year. Over the next five years, this would result in approximately eighteen additional students being sponsored.

Councillor Pflipsen notes that this motion has already passed at the MCSS and observes that the document states the increase would be to ten students. He asks whether WUSC will use the funding from MCSS to move from nine to ten students.

Mohammed Alnatour responds that all funding contributions are pooled into one fund and are not allocated per society in terms of a specific number of students.

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

Seeing none, the question period concludes.

The Speaker asks if there is any discussion on the floor regarding this Motion.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any opposition to Motion 8a..

Seeing none, Motion 8b is passed by unanimous consent.

- c. [Motion regarding SSMU ECOLE Project Fee 2026-02-12](#)(Student Groups Committee)-
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair presents the Motion and presents Brooklyn Frizzne.

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

Vice-President Aloudat asks when the fee expires.

Brooklyn Frizzne responds that the fee expires in Winter 2028.

Vice-President Aloudat asks whether this increase would remain in effect until the same time as the regular fee expiration. Brooklyn Frizzne responds that it would.

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Brooklyn Frizzne responds and says yes, that is correct.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions on the floor.

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

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any opposition to Motion 8c..

Seeing none, Motion 8c is passed by unanimous consent.

9. Executive Reports **(3)**

a. [President](#) (President Taylor)

President Taylor presents the report. He adds that for those who are going forward into executive positions in their respective societies, they should try to ensure they are available on May 7th, as that is when training hosted by McGill University will take place.

Councillor Annette Yu asks if President Taylor can quickly explain what the Athletics Council is and how that differs from the Varsity Council.

President Taylor responds that the Varsity Council is only for varsity athletes, while the Athletics Council represents varsity, recreation, and sports more broadly. It is intended to be a more bridged organization that represents all students involved in athletics and recreation, rather than just varsity students.

Councillor Annette Yu then notes that the report references the integration of students into the decision-making of McGill Athletics and Recreation. She asks whether this is supposed to occur through the revival of the Athletics Council, either by making the Varsity Council the new Athletics Council or through a sponsored effort between the two, or if it is a separate initiative.

President Taylor responds that it would essentially occur through that process, likely through the revival of the Athletics Council.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions for the report.

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Seeing none, the report is concluded.

b. [VP Finance](#) (VP Léger)

Vice-President Léger presents his report.

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

Seeing none, the report is concluded.

c. VP Internal - **POSTPONED**

10. Reports by Councillors (3)

a. [Medicine \(MSS\)](#)

i. [Outaouais Campus](#)

Councillor Kubat presents the Medicine report.

The Speaker asks if there are any questions on the floor.

Vice-President Aloudat notes that the MSS Med Senator recently resigned and that a new senator was appointed. She asks for more detail regarding the selection process, as it was not included in the report.

Councillor Kubat responds that she is from the Outaouais campus and was not aware that the Senator had resigned. She does not know what the selection process was, but states that she can have Representative He inquire and follow up. She clarifies that Representative He represents the Montreal campus and apologizes for not having further information at this time.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions.

Seeing none, the report is concluded

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b. [Nursing \(NUS\)](#)

Councillor Yam presents the Nursing report.

The Speaker asks if there are any questions on the floor.

Seeing none, the report is concluded.

c. [Education \(EdUS\)](#)

Representative Zeligson presents the Education report.

The Speaker asks if there are any questions on the floor.

Seeing none, the report is concluded

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

12. Question Period **(5)**

The Speaker asks if there are any questions.

Seeing none, the Speaker moves on to Motions.

13. Consent Items **(5)**

14. Motions (contd.)

- a. [Motion Regarding Renewal of the McGill Writing Centre Ancillary Fee 2026-02-12](#)
(President Taylor) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

President Taylor presents Motion 14a.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Councillor Matondo asks if there are any statistics regarding students (rest inaudible).

President Taylor responds by saying no.

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The Speaker opens the floor to discussion.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any opposition to Motion 14a..

Seeing none, Motion 14a is approved unanimously.

- b. [Motion regarding the Student Services Ancillary Fee](#) (President Taylor) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

President Taylor presents Motion 14b.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Seeing none, the Speaker then opens the floor to discussion.

Vice-President Aloudat adds that if anyone is here next year and gets to work with Tony, he oversees Student Services. He and the Director of Student Services are incredibly committed to improving services, especially student accessibility and achievement. She encourages members to tell their faculty to vote in favour of this motion, as it is very important for the capacity of the Student Services Office and for students' exam accommodations.

The Speaker asks if there is any opposition to Motion 14b.

Seeing none, Motion 14b is approved unanimously.

- c. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on the Renewal of the University Centre Fee 2026-02-12](#) (President Taylor) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

President Taylor presents his motion.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair asks if there is someone seconding the motion.

The Motion is seconded by Councillor Annette Yu.

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

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

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any opposition to Motion 14c. .

Seeing none, Motion 14c is approved unanimously.

- d. [Motion regarding Anti-Violence Fee Renewal 2026-02-02](#) (President Taylor)- **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

President Taylor presents Motion 14d.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

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

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any opposition to Motion 14d.

Seeing none, Motion 14d is approved unanimously.

- e. [Motion Regarding the Amendment to the Standing Rules for the 2025-2026 Legislative Council](#) (Steering Committee)- **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Speaker Knickerbocker presents the motion on behalf of the Steering Committee.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Vice-President Aloudat asks for clarification. She notes that for proxy voting, the proxy must be from the same faculty or non-faculty constituency, and for a Senate Representative, it would have to be another elected member. She asks whether this is possible given that Senate Caucus is not an official committee.

President Taylor responds that Senate Caucus is an official committee and has been since approximately the 1970s.

Vice-President Aloudat asks how this is known.

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President Taylor mentions that in documents from the 1970s up to 2010, Senate Caucus has always been listed as a Committee.

Vice-President Aloudat adds that these are the standing rules for just this year and assumes that the standing rules will be changed when the next elected Council begins, including dates and references to Wednesday meetings being updated to reflect the next Legislative Council's schedule.

Speaker Knickerbocker confirms that the Standing Rules are adopted as the first item on the agenda at the first meeting. The idea was to create a working document that can be updated quickly in the future, but everything is updated at the start of the next Legislative Council.

Vice-President Aloudat asks Speaker Knickerbocker to explain what generative discussion points are.

Speaker Knickerbocker explains that generative discussion points are items that are more substantive than regular discussion points. They usually require accompanying documents and are treated in the Standing Rules similarly to guest presentations, with discussion following.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions.

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

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any opposition to Motion 14e.

Seeing none, Motion 14e is approved unanimously.

f. [Motion Regarding the Increase of SSMU Food bank Fee](#) (VP Crema Black)- **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Vice-President Crema Black presents Motion 14f.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Councillor Annette Yu asks Vice-President Crema Black why she does not want to increase the fee by more than one dollar given there is so much need.

Vice-President Crema Black responds that there is significant need, but she wants to ensure the motion passes and does not want the proposed increase to be perceived as excessive. She emphasizes

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that additional funding for this project is very important, but that it is more realistic for approval if the increase is one dollar rather than two or three dollars. She adds that there may be openness to a larger increase in the future. She notes that the long-term plan is to expand toward a food bank model.

Councillor Lai notes that Vice-President Crema Black mentioned that salaries account for 18% of the budget and that this is for one Commissioner. She asks at what point an additional Commissioner would be needed, given the significant workload.

Vice-President Crema Black responds that at present there is only one Food Pantry Coordinator. Typically, there are two Coordinator positions, as the role is intended to be shared between two individuals. However, when one Coordinator left, the hours were transferred to the remaining Coordinator.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions on the floor.

Vice-President Aloudat asks for clarification, noting that she believes this is the same fee that PGSS is supposed to be levying. She asks whether PGSS is aware that SSMU plans to increase the fee and whether PGSS is also levying a two-dollar fee.

Vice-President Crema Black responds that she is not certain what PGSS's fee currently is. She explains that PGSS expressed interest in signing an MOA in order to pass a fee through their own Legislative Council. She accepted and asked them to provide a draft of the MOA. They instead asked her to draft it, which she declined. She states that while she does not know what PGSS's fee is, they are aware that SSMU's fee is being raised to two dollars.

President Taylor asks for clarification on whether Vice-President Crema Black declined to draft the MOA because she did not want to or because she lacked time.

Vice-President Crema Black explains that they had a meeting regarding the fee, after which she and the Food Pantry Coordinator drafted their referendum question. PGSS then listed certain demands in order to approve the referendum question. She indicated that the demands sounded reasonable but noted that she did not have the authority to approve or guarantee those demands herself, as they would need to go through Legislative Council in the form of an MOA. She further explains that PGSS stated it was expected that SSMU draft both the fee levy question and the MOA and requested a draft by February 11th, having asked on February 3rd. She notes that such an MOA would have no meaning without approval from Legislative Council. She responded by informing PGSS that the next Legislative

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Council meeting, at which agreements could be approved, was scheduled for February 12th (with documentation due February 9th), and that the following meeting would take place on February 26th (with documentation due February 23rd). She states that in her email she wrote that, as PGSS is requesting continued access to the SSMU Food Pantry for a fee levy on its membership, it is PGSS's responsibility to draft the MOA outlining the terms and conditions under which it is prepared to support and participate in the service. She reiterated that SSMU's position remains that food security should be accessible to all McGill students and that PGSS is invited to seek consent from its membership to contribute to the service so that PGSS students may continue to access it. Any conditions required by PGSS must be articulated directly in the MOA draft.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions on the floor.

Councillor Benjamin Yu acknowledges the significant need for expanding the fee and ensuring access to groceries. He asks Vice-President Crema Black to provide reassurance regarding financial sustainability and overall sustainability, particularly concerning perishable groceries, to ensure that the increased fee will be used effectively.

Vice-President Crema Black responds that they are currently working with an organization called Moisson Montréal, a large Montreal-based organization that provides free food to groups combatting food insecurity. She explains that they are hoping to reach an agreement whereby Moisson Montréal will provide a substantial amount of free groceries to help stock the pantry/food bank. She adds that they are also working with SNAC, another grocery program within SSMU. At times when SNAC has excess groceries, those items are transferred to the pantry. She further notes that a mushroom-growing group at McGill has expressed interest in operating at the food bank, which may provide another avenue for accessing food. She emphasizes that the majority of funding comes from the student fee, and that SSMU has negotiated discounted pricing with various corporations for food purchases. She adds that they have already purchased a fridge and shelving and budgeted accordingly, and that surplus funds from the COVID years have covered those setup costs. She clarifies that aside from salaries (which account for 18%), all student fee revenue goes directly toward food.

Councillor Prendergast asks for clarification on the "donation grocery cards" line item in the budget.

Vice-President Crema Black explains that individual students may apply or speak with the service to receive grocery cards, typically valued at \$100, for stores such as Loblaws or Maxi.

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Councillor Bongiovanni asks whether the proposed mushroom project would come to Council for approval, particularly given liability concerns.

Vice-President Crema Black responds that it would come to Council for approval and would also go through the Building Director. She notes that the Building Director is heavily involved and aware of relevant regulations, and that this initiative would be included in a future report as a forthcoming endeavour.

VicePresident Aloudat asks whether liability issues within the Society fall under Legislative Council or another governing body.

President Taylor responds that if Council requires information, it may request it from the Officers. However, at present, the Board of Directors is responsible for the legal, financial, and operational oversight of the Society.

A question from the question forum asks which three days per week the pantry is restocked.

Vice-President Crema Black responds that the pantry is restocked on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions.

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

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any opposition to Motion 14f.

Seeing none, Motion 14f is approved unanimously.

15. Recess

President Taylor motions for a 15-minute recess.

The motion is seconded by Councillor Annette Yu.

16. Motions (contd.2)

- a. [Motion Regarding the SSMU Daycare Fee for Winter 2026 Referendum 2026-02-03](#) (VP Abu Alkhair) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

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Vice-President Abu-Alkhair presents Motion 16a.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Councillor Dan asks who has access to the daycare.

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair responds that access is available to SSMU members, PGSS members, and the broader McGill University community, including faculty and staff.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions.

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

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any opposition to Motion 16a.

Seeing none, Motion 16a is approved unanimously.

- b. Motion Regarding amendment to the Constitution - **POSTPONED**
- c. Motion to approve a Plebiscite period to be held from February 16th, 2026 to February 19th, 2026 (President Taylor) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

President Taylor presents the Motion following Discussion Point c and states that he rescinds his time.

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

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any discussion on the motion.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any opposition to Motion 16c.

Motion 16c is approved unanimously.

- d. Motion to approve the following Plebiscite questions and delegate the writing of their prefaces to the Constitution Working Group: (President Taylor) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
 - i. What do you believe should be the highest governing body of the Society?
 1. Board of Directors
 2. Legislative Council

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3. Executive Committee
 - ii. What do you believe should be the quorum for a Student Strike?
 1. 50%
 2. 40%
 3. 30%
 4. 20%
 5. 15%
 - iii. If you have any feedback on the proposed amendments to the Constitution, please write them below.

President Taylor presents the Motion following Discussion Point c and states that he rescinds his time.

The Speaker asks if there are any questions regarding the motion.

Councillor Murr asks whether it would be appropriate to include a “no change” option.

President Taylor responds that quorum must be increased from 10% to at least 15%, and that this change needs to occur.

Councillor Chen asks whether explanatory information will be attached to the questions, particularly clarifying the differences between the Board of Directors, Legislative Council, and Executive Committee, as many students are unfamiliar with SSMU and its governing bodies.

President Taylor responds that, as outlined in the latter half of Motion 16d, the drafting of prefaces will be delegated for each question. These prefaces will explain the roles and day-to-day functions of the Board of Directors, Legislative Council, and Executive Committee. A similar explanation will also be provided regarding quorum to ensure students understand the concept.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any discussion on the motion.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if there is any opposition to Motion 16d.

Motion 16d is approved unanimously.

17. Notices of Motion

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The Speaker announces that there are no Notices of Motion this evening.

18. For Discussion

a. Update on Constitution reform (President Taylor)

President Taylor presents Discussion Point a. He states that the Constitution has been postponed to the next Legislative Council meeting in two weeks, with the intention of potentially holding a special referendum specifically regarding the Constitution, as well as any related matters of concern.

The Speaker asks if there is any further discussion on the floor.

Seeing none, Discussion Point a is concluded.

b. "Drivesafe - Inoperable Phone Number (President Taylor)

President Taylor presents Discussion Point b. He provides context, explaining that last Friday the Valentine's Day Ball took place at the University Centre. During the event, DriveSafe was called to transport an individual home, as alcohol was involved. However, the call did not connect properly and was instead routed to a number in Montreal belonging to a man who was not affiliated with DriveSafe and who had reportedly been receiving calls throughout the night informing callers that he was not DriveSafe.

This raised concerns about how the phone number was not renewed or how a routing issue occurred. President Taylor explains that on Saturday, the phone number was restored to the correct line. The Executive team is now reviewing the situation with DriveSafe to determine what led to the issue and to ensure that it does not occur again.

The Speaker asks if there is further discussion on the floor.

Councillor Benjamin Yu notes that DriveSafe typically operates in two ways: either by assigning a specific DriveSafe vehicle to an event or by prioritizing event attendees through the general service vehicles. He asks which model was in place during this incident and whether any additional factors may have contributed to the issue.

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President Taylor clarifies that the incident involved calling the general DriveSafe number, which operates from Friday to Sunday; however, that number was not functioning at the time.

Councillor Annette Yu asks whether, in terms of responsibility for renewing the phone number, there would be any reprimand for the club involved in the oversight.

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair clarifies that DriveSafe is a Service, not a club. He states that the priority is first to fully understand the situation. He and the Vice-President Finance will be meeting with DriveSafe next week to review what occurred and determine whether there were any gaps or areas where additional support is needed. He notes that there was some confusion regarding the phone number itself. Regarding potential reprimand, he states that they will look into the matter and report back to Council, and that it will also be addressed through the Services Committee in a future report.

The Speaker asks if there is any further discussion on the floor.

Seeing none, Discussion Point b is concluded.

- c. Plebiscite question(s)
 - i. LC being highest body (if legally possible)

President Taylor presents Discussion Point c(i). He explains that the plebiscite period will run from Monday, February 16th to Thursday, February 19th. The plebiscite will primarily address two major constitutional issues and seek general feedback from the student body. One question concerns which body should be the highest governing authority of the Society: the Board of Directors, Legislative Council, or Executive Committee. He notes that student input on this matter would help align the Constitution with what students would like to see.

- ii. 30% quorum for strike

President Taylor presents Discussion Point c(ii). This concerns the quorum required for a student strike. Currently, 10% of students must participate in a vote for it to be valid. The question being posed is whether that quorum should increase. The proposed options are 50%, 40%, 30%, 20%, or 15%. A third question will invite general feedback on the proposed constitutional amendments, with approximately four days provided for students to review the material. President Taylor adds a brief preface explaining that a separate motion will delegate the drafting of explanatory prefaces for each

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question. These prefaces would clarify the roles of the Board of Directors, Legislative Council, and Executive Committee, as well as explain what quorum means.

The Speaker asks if there is further discussion on the floor.

Councillor Annette Yu asks what the average voter turnout has been in the past year relative to quorum thresholds.

President Taylor responds that turnout depends largely on the issue. He notes that students generally know how to vote but may not always feel motivated to do so. Regular turnout is typically between 15% and 20%, depending on timing. For strike votes, turnout has consistently ranged between 30% and 34%.

Councillor Dong asks when the quorum percentage was last changed and how often it can be changed.

President Taylor responds that there is no minimum time required between amendments; the Constitution can be amended as long as the student body approves. He clarifies that these are plebiscite questions and will not themselves enact changes. The last quorum change occurred the previous year, when election quorum was raised to 50%.

Councillor Annette Yu asks whether quorum for strikes is currently 30%.

President Taylor clarifies that it is currently 10%.

Councillor Annette Yu then asks what the advantage would be to increasing it.

President Taylor explains that because the Society is not a union and is not governed by provisions in the Quebec Labour Code regarding strikes, its legitimacy in calling a strike depends heavily on the proportion of students who participate in the vote.

Councillor Chen asks how many strike votes have reached 30% turnout.

President Taylor responds that all of them have.

Councillor Benjamin Yu states that many believe increasing voter turnout should not rely solely on constitutional amendments, but rather on improving engagement strategies to encourage participation.

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The discussion period begins.

Vice-President Aloudat expresses that there is merit in expecting broader engagement if the Society is considering a motion for the entire student body to strike. She suggests that having at least one-third of the Society engage with such a motion reflects stronger legitimacy. While she acknowledges the importance of promotion, she notes that low turnout may also reflect a lack of interest, not just insufficient outreach. She states that the Constitution should be amended in a way that reflects both realities.

Councillor Benjamin Yu responds that he understands this concern and does not view it as an either/or situation. He reiterates that the issue cannot be addressed solely through constitutional amendment and that additional measures to promote engagement should accompany any quorum changes.

Vice-President Crema Black notes that she is currently working on a project with Elections in which students are being compensated \$30 to participate in a 45-minute focus group to discuss why they have not voted. Eligibility is limited to students who have not voted in the last two elections. She adds that there will also be increased tabling prior to Executive elections and efforts to reassure students that engagement is being taken seriously. She sees the proposed quorum increase as a potential motivator for greater involvement and mentions the introduction of a public debate.

The Speaker asks if there is any further discussion on the floor.

Councillor Annette Yu asks whether there is a significant difference in turnout between strike votes and Executive elections.

President Taylor responds that turnout varies by issue. At times, referendums may see 20% turnout, while elections may see less. Turnout also depends on how referendums are structured, as separating questions can reduce survey fatigue. He notes that students tend to be more engaged when voting on strike questions.

The Speaker asks if there is any further discussion.

President Taylor motions to suspend the rules in order to add the two motions discussed to the agenda.

Councillor Annette Yu seconds the motion.

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The Speaker asks if there are any objections to suspending the rules to add the two motions.

Seeing none, the rules are suspended.

Councillor Annette Yu seconds both motions.

The motions are added to the agenda.

d. Services Report (VP Abu Alkhair)

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair states that he did not place this discussion point on the agenda.

Vice-President Aloudat asks where the Service reports are.

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair explains that Service reports have been paused. He states that presenting all of the reports to Council had become tedious for Council members, and that the Services Committee is currently conducting a Services Review. He concludes by reiterating that he will not be presenting the regular service reports at this time.

Councillor Benjamin Yu expresses appreciation for the concern regarding report fatigue but urges Vice-President Abu-Alkhair to continue presenting the reports “to keep everything clear with us.”

President Taylor provides context from the Steering side. He explains that the plan moving forward is for Services to submit reports to the Services Subcommittee, which is a subcommittee of the Student Groups Committee. That subcommittee would then compile a summary report to be presented to Council, providing information on each Service and allowing for representatives to be invited for additional questions or clarification.

Vice-President Aloudat states that she appreciates the efforts of the committees and subcommittees to process the reports. However, she asks whether the repackaged reports will include all substantive content from the services. If not, she suggests that Service reports be reinstated to maintain accountability.

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair clarifies that the Services Review process will include interviews conducted by the Services Committee, along with all reports, questions, notes, comments, and discussions related to each service. He states that the full review will be compiled and presented to Council.

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He then asks Councillor Benjamin Yu what concerns were raised by the SUS faculty regarding transparency of clubs and services.

Councillor Benjamin Yu explains that they gathered feedback in exchange for snacks and received concerns about the club application process. Students reported long delays and wait times and felt the process was being weaponized to discourage applications.

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair responds that there are currently 119 club applications, with the committee reviewing approximately 10 per week. He acknowledges that delays are real due to the high volume. He notes that at the end of last year, 17 clubs were approved and approximately 40 were reviewed in a single motion. He states that the Clubs Committee will be meeting weekly until the end of Council to process the remaining applications.

Vice-President Aloudat asks when Councillors can expect to receive the compiled service report package.

Vice-President Abu Alkhair responds that his personal and committee deadline is the second-to-last Legislative Council meeting. He also intends to invite Service Representatives to provide context at that time.

Vice-President Aloudat then motions to suspend the rules to amend the agenda and add Discussion Point: Clubs Committee Athletics Groups Conditions.

Discussion Point 18d is concluded.

- e. Clubs committee athletics groups conditions (VP Aloudat)

Vice-President Aloudat then motions to suspend the rules to amend the agenda and add Discussion Point: Clubs Committee Athletics Groups Conditions.

Vice-President Aloudat opens Discussion Point 18e. She notes that in December, Council tasked the Student Groups Committee with drafting conditions for athletics groups within the Society by January 29th. She states that she does not believe Council has received this draft and asks for an update and a timeline for delivery.

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair responds that the deadline was the second Council meeting on January 29th. However, several complex issues have arisen, including insurance requirements, potential fee

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structures, and questions regarding coach compensation. He explains that clubs do not have fees and maintain their own bank accounts, whereas services do have fees but do not maintain separate bank accounts. This has created uncertainty about whether athletics groups should be structured more like clubs or services. Additional questions include whether an athletics fee would go directly to group accounts or whether a centralized athletics fee would be created for groups to apply to. Regarding timeline, he states that once he consults legal counsel regarding insurance and obtains a cost estimate, he will bring the findings forward. The Student Groups Committee will be informed first.

Vice-President Aloudat responds that she appreciates the extensive considerations being undertaken but notes that the assignment was due January 29th. She requests that Council receive any draft work completed thus far, even if it is not final.

Vice-President Abu-Alkhair states that the scope of this change is significant and requires thorough consultation before any major decision is made. He offers to present the findings completed so far in his next report.

Vice-President Aloudat clarifies that she is not requesting a final draft, but rather any work completed since the assignment was made.

Vice-President Abu Alkhair asks whether she would like that information immediately or in his next report.

Vice-President Aloudat responds that it can be shared whenever possible, or deferred until two weeks from now if necessary.

Discussion Point 18e is concluded.

19. Adjournment: **20:27**

President Taylor motions to adjourn the meeting.

The Speaker adjourns the Legislative Council at 20:27.