



# MOTION REGARDING POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS ADDITION IN THE IRS REP & ADVOCACY 2026-03-26

Submitted for: 2026-03-26

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2026-03-12-003 (to be assigned by Steering)
Moved by:	Governance Reform Committee	Current Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:			

## Issue

Following review by the Governance Review Committee, as mandated by the Legislative Council, the Political Campaigns section of the Internal Regulations of Representation & Advocacy is presented for consideration.

## Background and Rationale

This has been a year-long project, first by the Vice-President (External Affairs) and the PAC, who then suggested it be mandated to the Governance Reform Committee for further input from Councillors and Directors. Then, the Governance Reform Committee took the draft created by the PAC and VPXA for review and provided substantial edits culminating in the version as presented here.

Originally, the plan was to make this a separate protocol, however the importance of this (as highlighted in the consultation process) necessitates it be placed within an Internal Regulation instead. This issue affects all

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students as it will determine how student initiative and political mobilization is supported by the SSMU.

Several concerns were brought up during the consultation and editing process which are addressed in this new version, namely:

- The amount of power provided to a singular Executive for determining SSMU's interaction with Political Campaigns.
- The lack of accountability and transparency for how the Vice-President (External Affairs) prioritizes and disperses support.
- The lack of restrictions on providing financial support, which could lead to mismanagement of funding.

Notable changes in this version of the Internal Regulations include:

- Clearer descriptions of requirements for obtaining Affiliated status.
- Reintroduction of the External Affairs Committee.
- Delineation between Independent and Affiliated Political Campaigns.
- Clear guidelines for privileges afforded, especially publicity.

The revival of the External Affairs Committee allows the Political Campaigns to be under the authority of not just a singular Executive, with little accountability, but a group of individuals with multiple perspectives (Coordinators, Councillors, Members-at-Large, VPs).

As a Committee of the Legislative Council, the External Affairs Committee is mandated to report their activities. This will ensure accountability and transparency in how the SSMU interacts with political campaigns.

The regulations on funding campaigns as described in Appendix A will reduce the risk of financial mismanagement and ensure the continued support of political campaigns in a way that is financially responsible and promotes sustainability in the SSMU.

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**Alignment with Mission**

This aligns with SSMU's mission and goals by providing clear guidelines for the support of Political Campaigns.

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**Consultations  
Completed**

Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary  
Governance Review Committee (including President, Vice-President  
External Affairs, Policy & Advocacy Coordinator)  
Previous Vice-President (External Affairs)  
Various Campaigns  
Political Campaigns Coordinator

- I have read and completed the requirements outlined in the Consultation Policy.

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**Risk Factors and  
Resource  
Implications**

Without this addition to the Internal Regulations of Representation & Advocacy, there will be no guidelines for how Political Campaigns are managed within the SSMU.  
Without clear guidelines, the SSMU's conduct related to Political Campaigns is largely restricted to the activities and priorities of a singular Executive in any given year, with little accountability.  
This addition does restrict financial support to Affiliated Political Campaigns, however this allows the SSMU to oversee the disbursement of student's money (as this comes directly from the Operating Fund) to ensure it aligns with SSMU's mandates and is used effectively.

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**Impact of  
Decision  
and Next Steps**

If approved at the Legislative Council, this motion will be forwarded to the Board of Directors for ratification.

Following the ratification, the updated Internal Regulations of Representation & Advocacy and the Committee Terms of Reference will be added to the website.

The Vice-President (External Affairs) will begin the process of organizing the External Affairs Committee as described in Appendix B.

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**Motion or  
Resolution for  
Approval**

Be it resolved that *the Internal Regulations of Representation & Advocacy*, as outlined in Appendix A, be adopted.

Be it further resolved that *the Terms of Reference for the External Affairs Committee*, as outlined in Appendix B, be adopted into the Committee Terms of Reference.

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**Results of the  
Vote**

- In favour (24)
- Opposed (0)
- Abstain (0)

APPROVED

## Appendix A : IR Represented & Advocacy

[PROPOSED - Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy 2026-03-XX](#)

## Appendix B : Committee Terms of Reference

### 1. External Affairs Committee

#### 1.1. Oversight

The External Affairs Committee will be a committee of the Legislative Council.

#### 1.2. General

The External Affairs Committee will support the External Affairs portfolio in fulfilling various mandates. This will include the review of Mandate Requests to receive Affiliated Political Campaigns status and the disbursement of funding from the Political Campaigns department. This will also include representing the Society's membership's interests and needs to the Vice-President (External Affairs).

#### 1.3. Responsibilities

- Advise the Vice-President (External) on current issues relating to their portfolio;
- Support student mobilization on external issues related to the Positions Book;
- Review and make recommendations on SSMU's affiliations with Provincial, Federal, or International student associations;
- Review Mandate Requests and make recommendations on Affiliated Political Campaigns status to the Legislative Council;
- Regularly review the Positions Book;

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- Review and disperse funds from the Political Campaigns department to Affiliated Campaigns based on the Internal Regulations of Finance;
- Research topics related to External Affairs mandates and campaigns;
- Take on other projects as deemed appropriate by the Vice-President (External); and
- Review and make recommendations on the Terms of Reference at the end of each academic year.

### **1.4. Membership**

The External Affairs Committee will consist of the following membership:

- One External Affairs Commissioner (Committee Chair, non-voting);
- the Vice-President (External Affairs);
- the Political Campaigns Coordinator (non-voting);
- the Vice-President (Finance) (as necessary, non-voting)
- two (2) Councillors;
- Two (2) Members-at-Large;
- The Vice-President (External Affairs) of each undergraduate student faculty and school association shall be invited.

The Vice-President (Finance) must only be present in such meetings where financial matters are being discussed.

### **1.5. Meetings**

The External Affairs Committee will meet biweekly unless an exception is made by the External Affairs Commissioner. The Committee will be given a full week's notice before a special meeting is convened.

### **1.6. Quorum**

Quorum for meetings of the External Affairs Committee will be a simple majority of its active members, including the Vice-President (External Affairs).

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## 1.7. Reporting

The External Affairs Committee will report to the Legislative Council once per semester.

## 1.8. Recruitment

The Deputy Speaker, with input from the Chair of the Committee, shall be responsible for recruitment for Committee positions.

### 1.8.1. Vacancies

Should any seat of the Committee become vacant, the regular recruitment process shall be immediately initiated.

APPROVED