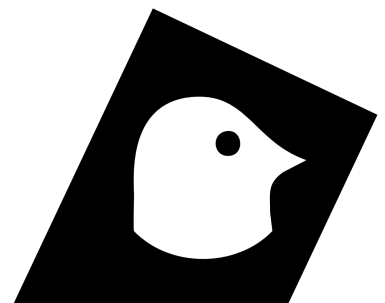


Results & Voter Turnout

Special Plebiscite Concerning Cut Varsity
Teams and Competitive Clubs



Submitted by Mike Lee, Chief Returning Officer
Updated as of 2025-12-21

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Background

On November 20, 2025, McGill Athletics and Recreation [announced that they will cut over half of their portfolio in the upcoming academic year](#). As a result, SSMU needed to understand what members thought of this decision and the future of sport teams and competitive clubs.

An emergency legislative council was called on November 27th, 2025 where the following motions by President Taylor were passed, which mandated Elections SSMU to run this special plebiscite:

- 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)
- 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)

The format of the ballot can be found [here](#).

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Results

Question format: **Do you agree that the _____ should be reinstated?**

Team	Yes	No	Abstain
Badminton varsity team (men/women)	4744 92.0%	415 8.0%	689 11.8%
Baseball varsity team (men)	4784 92.1%	413 7.9%	651 11.1%
Fencing competitive club (men/women)	4324 87.4%	625 12.6%	899 15.4%
Logger Sports competitive club (men/women)	3843 81.5%	871 18.5%	1134 19.4%
Nordic Ski competitive club (men/women)	4597 89.9%	516 10.1%	735 12.6%
Rugby varsity team (women)	5133 94.8%	284 5.2%	431 7.4%
Field Hockey varsity team (women)	4962 92.9%	378 7.1%	508 8.7%
Sailing competitive club (men/women)	4241 86.1%	686 13.9%	921 15.7%
Figure Skating competitive club (men/women)	4712 91.1%	462 8.9%	674 11.5%
Golf varsity team (men/women)	4275 85.0%	752 15.0%	821 14.0%
Lacrosse competitive club (women)	4863 92.1%	415 7.9%	570 9.7%
Squash competitive club (men/women)	4394 88.0%	597 12.0%	857 14.7%
Tennis competitive club (men/women)	4983 93.9%	321 6.1%	544 9.3%
Track and Field varsity team (men/women)	5493 97.3%	154 2.7%	201 3.4%
Volleyball competitive club (men)	4922 92.7%	386 7.3%	540 9.2%

To summarize, the majority of students believe all the competitive clubs and varsity teams should be re-instated. Track and Field had the most votes for “yes” (97.3%), and Logger Sports had the least votes for “yes” (81.5%), although it still had overwhelming support.

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Things to note

- Program enrollment is provided to Elections SSMU through Minerva Report. Those enrolled in more than one program were identified by the Primary Major.
- The School of Nursing and School of Physical and Occupational Therapy were classified separately from the Faculty of Medicine in the Minerva reports, therefore the Faculty of Medicine only considers M.D.C.M. students.

Voter Turnout by Faculty

Rank	Prev. Rank*	Faculty	Electors	Voted	%
1	3	INTERFACULTY, B.A. & SC.	652	242	37.1
2	1	FACULTY OF LAW	719	201	28
3	5	FACULTY OF ARTS	8102	2159	26.6
4	6	FACULTY OF SCIENCE	5167	1258	24.3
5	10	FACULTY OF ENGINEERING	3804	797	21
6	7	SCHOOL OF PHYS & OCC THERAPY	225	47	20.9
7	11	DESAUTELS FACULTY MANAGEMENT	2565	534	20.8
8	12	FACULTY OF EDUCATION	1690	329	19.5
9	8	SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MUSIC	455	61	13.4
10	2	FACULTY OF MEDICINE & HLTH SCI	927	112	12.1
11	4	FAC DENTAL MEDICINE & ORAL HS	170	19	11.2
12	9	INGRAM SCHOOL OF NURSING	856	89	10.4
		TOTAL	25332	5848	23.1

*Rank for the voter turnout of the SSMU Fall Referendum 2025

Total voter turnout is **23.1%**, which was more than the Fall Referendum turnout of 19.1%, despite the polling period being only 7 days (instead of 14 days in regularly scheduled elections).

Interfaculty students had the highest turnout by a wide margin, and Nursing students had the lowest turnout. While Medicine and Dentistry students had relatively high turnout rates for the Fall referendum, they ranked 10th and 11th in this Special Plebiscite. The Faculty of Law remains as the faculty with high voter participation.

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Programs with the highest turnout (>75 students)

Faculty	Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
INTERFACULTY, B.A. & SC.	FOUNDATION PROGRAM	96	45	46.9
FACULTY OF ARTS	HISTORY	313	112	35.8
FACULTY OF ARTS	FOUNDATION PROGRAM	754	261	34.6
FACULTY OF ARTS	POLITICAL SCIENCE	1330	445	33.5
FACULTY OF ARTS	INTNL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES	470	157	33.4
FACULTY OF SCIENCE	CHEMISTRY	138	46	33.3
FACULTY OF SCIENCE	MEDICAL PREPARATORY	93	31	33.3

The Interfaculty Foundation Program had the highest voting turnout by quite a large margin.

Interestingly, in the Fall Referendum only 20.8% cast a ballot. Given the smaller cohort size, it could be that voting and some promotion happened in the program. Political Science was also among the top 5 programs with high voter turnout in the Fall referendum, boosting a 25.8% turnout last time.

Programs with the lowest turnout (>75 students)

Faculty	Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
INGRAM SCHOOL OF NURSING	INTEGRATED NURSING	577	40	6.9
SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MUSIC	PERFORMANCE JAZZ	113	11	9.7
FACULTY OF EDUCATION	SECONDARY ENGLISH	136	15	11
FAC DENTAL MEDICINE & ORAL HS	DENTISTRY	170	19	11.2
FACULTY OF MEDICINE & HLTH SCI	MEDICINE	913	106	11.6
FACULTY OF ARTS	STATISTICS	94	12	12.8

Integrated Nursing and the Faculty of Nursing in general had the lowest turnout this election.

According to the Nursing Councillor, Integrated Nursing is offered on-site and off-campus. Therefore, those off-campus may feel more disengaged to vote. I cannot make that association as Minerva does not differentiate between those attending on campus and in person. Work with the Nursing Councillor and NUS is planned to differentiate students from those programs. Medicine went from second highest turnout (32.6% in Fall Referendum) to second lowest turnout (11.6% in Special Plebiscite) in a span of a month. The only thing I can think of is that during the Fall Referendum MSS was running a very important referendum through our SimplyVoting platform that overlapped with our polling period, which may also make students cast votes for the SSMU election. Interestingly, the Med-P program, where students continue onto the Faculty of Medicine the year later had one of the highest turnout.

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Voter Turnout - Desautels (Management)

Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOUR	4	3	75
MANAGING FOR SUSTAINABILITY	18	8	44.4
ECONOMICS AND FINANCE	10	4	40
ECONOMICS	57	17	29.8
STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT	57	16	28.1
UNDECLARED FOR BCOM STUDENTS	263	74	28.1
ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOUR & HR	15	4	26.7
INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT	77	20	26
GENERAL MANAGEMENT	389	84	21.6
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT	47	10	21.3
TOTAL	2565	534	20.8
BUSINESS ANALYTICS	85	17	20
FINANCE	978	182	18.6
ACCOUNTING	341	63	18.5
MATH AND STATS FOR MANAGEMENT	53	9	17
MARKETING	118	17	14.4
MATH FOR MANAGEMENT	7	1	14.3
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MGMT	30	4	13.3
RETAIL MANAGEMENT	12	1	8.3
ECONOMICS AND ACCOUNTING	1	0	0
INFORMATION SYSTEMS	1	0	0
LABOUR-MGMT RELATIONS&HUM RES	2	0	0

Voter Turnout - Dental Medicine

Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
DENTISTRY	170	19	11.2

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Voter Turnout - Arts

Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
GEOGRAPHY	9	4	44.4
CANADIAN STUDIES	5	2	40
LIBERAL ARTS	36	14	38.9
WORLD ISLAMIC&MDL EAST ST	13	5	38.5
HISTORY	313	112	35.8
URBAN STUDIES	20	7	35
FOUNDATION PROGRAM	754	261	34.6
POLITICAL SCIENCE	1330	445	33.5
INTNL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES	470	157	33.4
JEWISH STUDIES	6	2	33.3
RUSSIAN	6	2	33.3
LINGUISTICS	122	40	32.8
PHILOSOPHY	131	43	32.8
SOCIOLOGY	192	63	32.8
ENGLISH	405	129	31.9
ENVIRONMENT	107	33	30.8
GEOGRAPHY (AR)	137	42	30.7
ANTHROPOLOGY	137	40	29.2
LANGUE ET LITT FRANCAISES	18	5	27.8
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	47	13	27.7
GNDR,SEX,FEM&SOC JUST ST	40	11	27.5
UNDECLARED	144	39	27.1
TOTAL	8102	2159	26.6
ART HISTORY	89	22	24.7
EAST ASIAN STUDIES	46	11	23.9
CLASSICS	31	7	22.6
MATHEMATICS	93	21	22.6
APPLIED MATHEMATICS	9	2	22.2
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING	45	10	22.2
ECONOMICS	902	197	21.8
LANGUE&LITT FRANC ENRICHE	14	3	21.4

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PSYCHOLOGY	1807	337	18.6
SOCIAL WORK	168	28	16.7
INDUSTRIAL&LABOUR RELATIONS	14	2	14.3
MATH & COMPUTER SCIENCE	14	2	14.3
COMPUTER SCIENCE	254	35	13.8
STATISTICS	94	12	12.8
HISPANIC STUDIES	9	1	11.1
AFRICAN STUDIES	1	0	0
GERMAN STUDIES	4	0	0
INDIGENOUS STUDIES AD HOC	1	0	0
MUSIC	6	0	0
PROBABILITY & STATISTICS	1	0	0
SOCIAL WORK CREE SCHOOL BOARD	34	0	0
SPECIAL	21	0	0
VISITING	3	0	0

Voter Turnout - Education

Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
GENERAL KINESIOLOGY	1	1	100
KINDERGARTEN & ELEM JEWISH ST	1	1	100
SECONDARY SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	22	7	31.8
KINESIOLOGY	344	101	29.4
KINESIOLOGY -HONOURS	19	5	26.3
PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION	238	51	21.4
SECONDARY SOCIAL SCIENCES	99	21	21.2
TOTAL	1690	329	19.5
EDUCATION IN GLOBAL CONTEXTS	130	25	19.2
SECONDARY MATHEMATICS	37	7	18.9
K/ELEM PED DE L'IMMERSION FRAN	69	13	18.8
KINDERGARTEN & ELEMENTARY ED	417	65	15.6
TESL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY	108	15	13.9
SECONDARY ENGLISH	136	15	11
SPECIAL	25	2	8

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FIRST NATIONS & INUIT	25	0	0
INCLUSIVE EDUCATION	11	0	0
MUSIC ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY	8	0	0

Voter Turnout - Engineering

Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
MATERIALS ENGINEERING	5	2	40
ARCHITECTURE	152	50	32.9
BIOENGINEERING	276	70	25.4
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	752	186	24.7
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING	434	106	24.4
CIVIL ENGINEERING	440	93	21.1
TOTAL	3804	797	21
CO-OP IN MATERIALS ENGINEERING	276	53	19.2
GLOBAL ENGINEERING	73	14	19.2
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING	425	77	18.1
COMPUTER ENGINEERING	441	75	17
CO-OP IN MINING ENGINEERING	124	19	15.3
CO-OP IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING	391	52	13.3
MATERIALS ENGINEERING CO-OP	4	0	0
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING	11	0	0

Voter Turnout - Law

Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
BCL-JD & MSW	1	1	100
INTNL HUMAN RIGHTS & DEVLPMNT	1	1	100
TOTAL	719	201	28
LAW	712	199	27.9
COMMER'L NEGOT & DISPUTE RESOL	3	0	0
SPECIAL	2	0	0

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Voter Turnout - Medicine

Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
MDCM/PHD	14	6	42.9
TOTAL	927	112	12.1
MEDICINE	913	106	11.6

Voter Turnout - Science

Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
PLANETARY SCIENCES	3	3	100
PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY	10	6	60
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES & PHYSICS	8	4	50
GEOGRAPHY	8	4	50
IMMUNOLOGY (INTERDEPT)	30	15	50
ENVIRONMENT	68	29	42.6
BIOLOGY & MATHEMATICS	33	12	36.4
PHYSIOLOGY AND MATHEMATICS	11	4	36.4
GEOLOGY	14	5	35.7
CHEMISTRY	138	46	33.3
MEDICAL PREPARATORY	93	31	33.3
PHYSIOLOGY	243	79	32.5
NEUROSCIENCE	185	58	31.4
BIOLOGY	252	78	31
EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE	23	7	30.4
ANATOMY AND CELL BIOLOGY	506	153	30.2
BIOCHEMISTRY	256	73	28.5
FOUNDATION PROGRAM	456	130	28.5
MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY	290	76	26.2
PHYSICS	185	48	25.9
TOTAL	5167	1258	24.3
UNDECLARED	122	29	23.8
COMPUTERSCIENCE & BIOLOGY	30	7	23.3
MATHEMATICS	147	33	22.4

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DENTAL PREPARATORY	9	2	22.2
PSYCHOLOGY	217	48	22.1
APPLIED MATHEMATICS	24	5	20.8
COMPUTER SCIENCE AND BIOLOGY	88	18	20.5
PHARMACOLOGY	387	78	20.2
PHYSICS & COMPUTER SCI	52	8	15.4
MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS	46	7	15.2
ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE	7	1	14.3
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING	99	14	14.1
STATISTICS	57	8	14
MATH & COMPUTER SCIENCE	194	27	13.9
COMPUTER SCIENCE	680	93	13.7
STATS & COMPUTER SCIENCE	129	17	13.2
PHYSICS AND GEOPHYSICS	8	1	12.5
PHYSICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE	41	1	2.4
METEOROLOGY	4	0	0
PHYSIOLOGY AND PHYSICS	9	0	0
PROBABILITY & STATISTICS	2	0	0
SPECIAL	1	0	0
VISITING	2	0	0

Voter Turnout - Nursing

Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
NURSING	278	49	17.6
TOTAL	856	89	10.4
INTEGRATED NURSING	577	40	6.9
SPECIAL	1	0	0

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Voter Turnout - Interfaculty (Arts & Science)

Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
GEOGRAPHY	1	1	100
INTNL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES	3	2	66.7
STATISTICS	6	4	66.7
CHEMISTRY	16	9	56.3
ART HISTORY	2	1	50
ENVIRONMENT	32	16	50
GEOGRAPHY (AR)	4	2	50
LINGUISTICS	2	1	50
FOUNDATION PROGRAM	96	45	46.9
SUSTAINABILITY, SCI & SOC	49	23	46.9
MATHEMATICS	15	7	46.7
ANTHROPOLOGY	5	2	40
ENGLISH	5	2	40
PHYSICS	15	6	40
ECONOMICS	13	5	38.5
UNDECLARED	21	8	38.1
TOTAL	652	242	37.1
BIOLOGY	44	16	36.4
COGNITIVE SCIENCE	246	78	31.7
SUSTAINABILITY, SCI & SOC -H	7	2	28.6
PHILOSOPHY	4	1	25
SOFTWARE ENGINEERING	4	1	25
PSYCHOLOGY	35	8	22.9
COMPUTER SCIENCE	17	2	11.8
HISTORY	2	0	0
LATIN AMER & CARIB STUDIES	1	0	0
POLITICAL SCIENCE	6	0	0
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	1	0	0

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Voter Turnout - Occupational and Physical Therapy

Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY NP	113	26	23
TOTAL	225	47	20.9
PHYSICAL THERAPY NP	107	21	19.6
SPECIAL	5	0	0

Voter Turnout - Music

Program	Electors	Voted	% Voted
MUSIC HISTORY	7	2	28.6
COMPOSITION	21	5	23.8
MUSIC STUDIES	16	3	18.8
PERFORMANCE VOICE	53	9	17
PERFORMANCE	141	20	14.2
TOTAL	455	61	13.4
MUSIC	60	8	13.3
MUSIC EDUCATION	28	3	10.7
PERFORMANCE JAZZ	113	11	9.7
EARLY MUSIC PERFORMANCE	3	0	0
EARLY MUSIC PERFORMANCE VOICE	4	0	0
JAZZ PERFORMANCE	1	0	0
MUSIC THEORY	5	0	0
PERFORMANCE PIANO	1	0	0
SPECIAL	2	0	0