

**Conseil judiciaire  
Judicial Board**

*Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.  
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.*

jboard@ssmu.ca | 3501 rue Peel, Montréal, QC, H3A 1W7



# **STUDENTS' SOCIETY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY JUDICIAL BOARD**

June 6, 2026

## **BONGIOVANNI V ELECTIONS SSMU**

### **Participants**

**Justice Bongiovanni**

Petitioner

and

**Elections SSMU**

Respondent

### **TYPE**

Appeal - Dismissal

### **JURISDICTION**

Students' Society of McGill University

### **REASONS FOR JUDGMENT**

THE SSMU JUDICIAL BOARD [2025-2026] - UNANIMOUS -

After careful review of your petition and the submissions made before this Board, we write to inform you that your complaint has been dismissed. The following outlines the reasons for this decision.

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**Interim Relief :**

The Judicial Board does not have the authority to issue binding interim relief. As this Board issues recommendations rather than binding decisions, the remedial provisions cited (ss. 7.1(c), (d), and (f) of the JBP) do not provide a basis for the interim orders requested. Specifically, s. 7.1c does not constitute an interim order, s. 7.1d may support a recommendation of reversal but not a binding interim order, and s. 7.1f makes clear that binding interim orders exceed this Board's jurisdiction.

**Timeliness, What Cannot Be Appealed :**

Pursuant to s. 3.2 of the JBP, complaints must be submitted within ten (10) days of the incident or the Petitioner's awareness of it. The following reports fall outside the appealable window as calculated from the date of your complaint (April 16):

Report 7 (1 demerit point for unapproved material) was issued March 5th, 30 days prior. Report 8 (2 demerit points for external support) was issued March 12th, 25 days prior. Report 19 (6 demerit points for abuse of position and improper endorsements) was issued by email on March 18th and seen on March 19th at 4pm, 20 days prior.

Regarding Report 19, the Mandatory SSMU Executive Elections Campaign Meeting materials explicitly state that candidates are expected to respond to Elections SSMU as soon as possible and that failure to see an email is not an accepted excuse.

**Merits of the Petition:**

With respect to the specific relief requested, items (a) and (b) were considered as follows: the first part of item (a) regarding the CRO's April 7 Decision could be heard, but not the portion concerning Report 19, and item (b) is too late to be considered. Item (c) is not warranted, as the Legislative Council's April 2026 re-tabulation vote falls within its constitutional authority, the Board was consulted and did not indicate the option was unconstitutional, and such action has precedent. On items (d) and (e), the Board could recommend action following a full hearing but cannot unilaterally set aside the installation of another candidate or recognize the Petitioner as VP (External Affairs). Item (f) is similarly limited, as this Board can only recommend, not direct, the issuance of a public statement. Finally, regarding item (g), this Board does not have the authority to remove the CRO or reassign his responsibilities.

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**On the Evidence:**

The Petitioner raised concerns regarding witness credibility and timestamp discrepancies. However, under the applicable standard of a balance of probabilities, the volume and weight of complaints against the Petitioner outweigh the points raised in his defence.

For the foregoing reasons, the petition is dismissed.

**Reminder Regarding Representation**

As a final note, the Board wishes to draw your attention to s. 6.3 of the JBP. No Party is required to be represented by an Advocate during the Proceedings and may self-represent, but should a Party wish to designate an Advocate, only Members of the SSMU who are not remunerated for their services may serve in that role.

Sincerely,  
The Judicial Board  
Students' Society of McGill University