



Elections SSMU

First Year Council Info Session



Association étudiante
de l'Université McGill
Students' Society of McGill
University

September 2nd, 2026

Who is Elections SSMU?

- Independent and neutral body responsible for administering and overseeing all SSMU elections and referenda. This includes:
 - First Year Council Elections
 - Fall Referendum
 - Winter Referendum and Executive Elections
 - Ratification of General Online Assemblies
- Ensuring fairness, transparency, and compliance with SSMU's Internal Regulations and Constitution.
- Handling complaints, disqualifications, and violations related to election rules.
- But most importantly, encourage participation among SSMU members and reduce barriers to voting.

VP Internal Affairs

internal@ssmu.ca

Maggie Tang

(she/her)

You can contact me if you have any questions about:

- Event planning committee
- First Year Involvement
- Communications
- Alumni engagement
- Sustainability

(Shoot us a dm on IG
[@sspnssmu](https://www.instagram.com/sspnssmu))





President

president@ssmu.ca
Hamza Abu-Alkhair (he/him)

You can contact me if you have any questions about:

- Governance
- Relations between SSMU and McGill administration
- Faculty Relations

VP Clubs and Services

studentlife@ssmu.ca
Acadia Knickerbocker (she/her)

You can contact me if you have any questions about:

- Student group support
- Family care



VP External Affairs

external@ssmu.ca
Harry Wang (he/him)

You can contact me if you have any questions about:

- Off-campus involvement
- Political campaign organization
- Provincial Relations
- Francophone Affairs

07



VP University Affairs

ua@ssmu.ca
Meghan Lai (she/her/elle)

You can contact me if you have any questions about:

- McGill policies and student rights
- Equity, accessibility, mental health
- McGill libraries and study spaces
- Menstrual Health Project

VP Internal Affairs

internal@ssmu.ca
Maggie Tang (she/her)

You can contact me if you have any questions about:

- Event planning committee
- First Year Involvement
- Communications
- Alumni engagement
- Sustainability

(Shoot us a dm on IG @sspnsamu)



VP Finance

finance@ssmu.ca

You can contact me if you have any questions about:

- SSMU Financial Information
- Health and dental insurance

08

What can you do in FYC?

Well firstly, you have money!

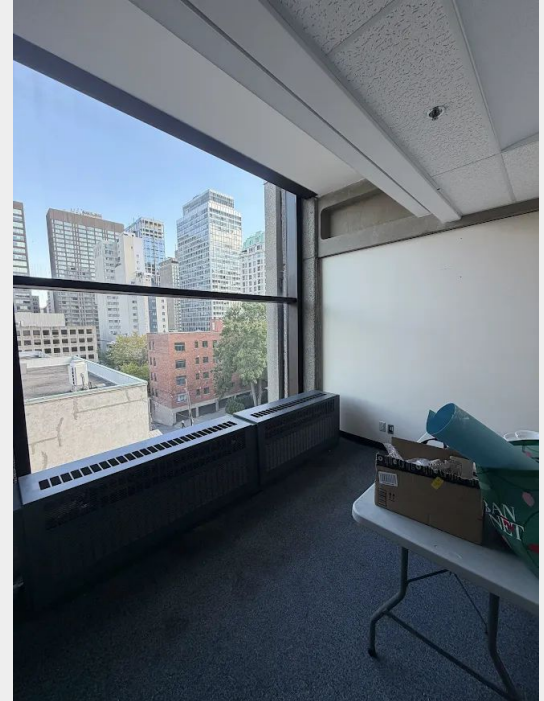
As of the Fall Referendum 2025, a \$0.30 fee levy (opt-outable) has been collected from each student. It's your money to use!



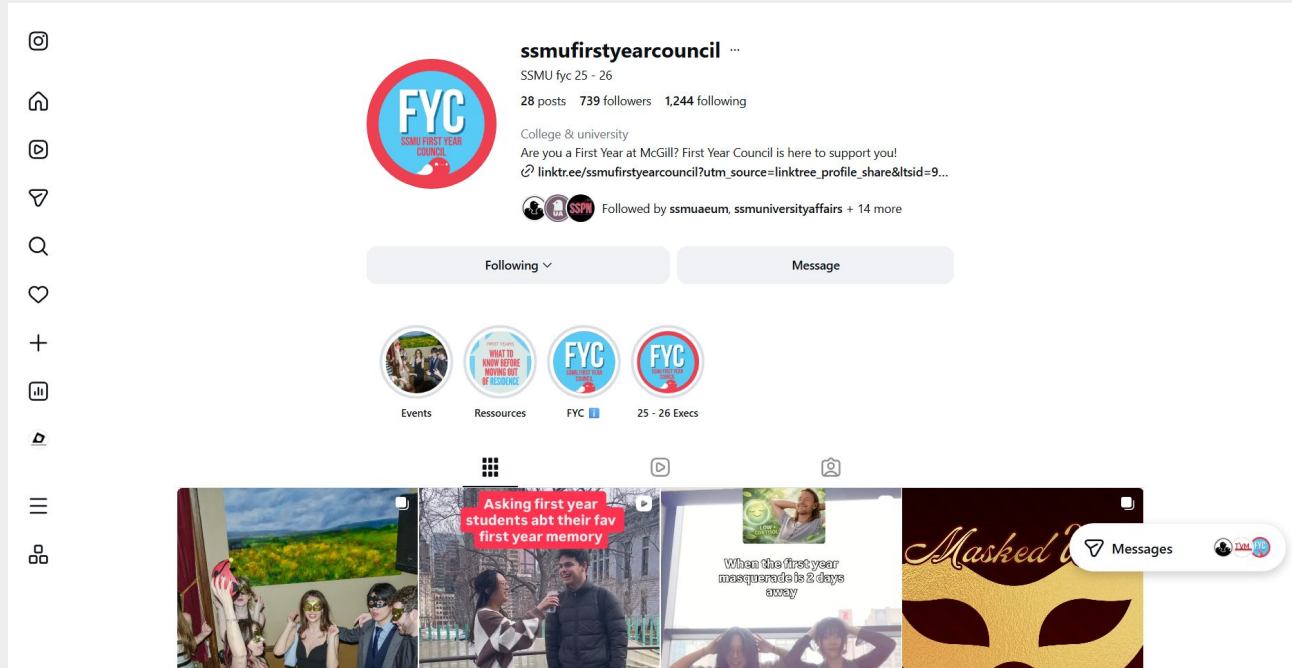
You have an office space (with a nice view)



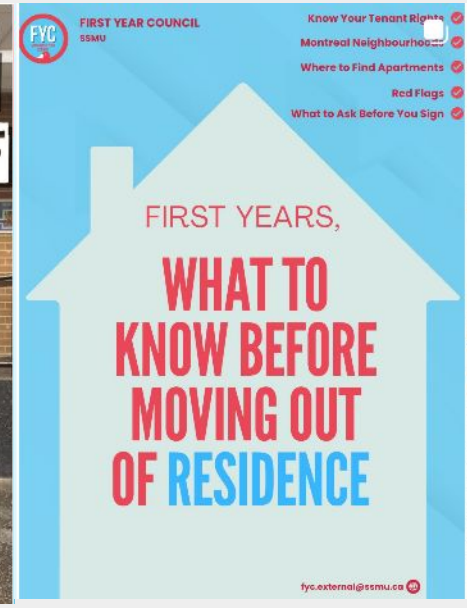
University Center, Room 408



Instagram @ssmufirstyearcouncil



Instagram @ssmufirstyearcouncil



Fun events!

**LOOK OUT FOR OUR
W26 EVENTS**



Matcha Wellness Event
Feb 26

Meet other First Years at our
Bar Event
late February



Wellness Study Support
packages
activities night!

End of Year First Year
Black Tie Formal
early April



Contact us about any concerns or
suggestions you have about your First-Year
experience!

**FREE
WELLNESS
PACKAGES**

Come find us at Activities Night!

Jan 27-28, 4-8 pm
SSMU Ballroom Table 3086



Wellness Hub x SSMU First Year Council



FREE MATCHA

**First Years,
Join us for
bracelet
making, service
dog & free
matcha!**

Thurs Feb 26 2026, 12:15-2:30
Wellness Hub, Flex Room
Brown Student Services Building



Other advantages for being part of FYC!

- Best way to be involved with SSMU, and a good stepping stone for future involvement.
- Get the support of the SSMU team to implement your ideas.
- Know people from other faculties.
- Make sure it's not only the old students deciding your fate.
- Flexible atmosphere, the council decides what projects they want to do and how they want to spend their money.

Documents to Reference



First Year Council Nomination Kit

President
Vice-President (Finance)
Vice-President (Internal Affairs)
Vice-President (Student Affairs)
Vice-President (External Affairs)

Please be sure to read all the information in this package and fill out all the necessary forms.
Questions? Comments? More information?

Contact us
elections@ssmu.ca

[Link](#)

Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda



Updated as of 2025-12-04

[Link](#)

Timeline of the First Year Council Election

- **Nomination Period and Signature Collection:** Monday, August 31 to Monday, September 14 at 11:59 p.m.
- **Extended Nomination Period** (*positions with less than 2 candidates*): Tuesday, September 15 to Wednesday, September 16, 5:00 p.m.
- **Candidates' Meeting (MANDATORY):** Wednesday, September 16, Boardroom, 3501 Peel, 6:00-7:30. p.m.
- **Pensketches due (OPTIONAL):** Wednesday, September 16, 11:59 p.m.
- **Campaigning Period:** Thursday, September 17 at 12:00 a.m. to Sunday, September 20 at 11:59 p.m.
- **Polling Period:** Monday, September 21 at 9:00 a.m. to Friday, October 2 at 9:00 p.m.
- **Announcement of results:** as soon as results are verified on October 2

Positions Available

President

Vice President (Finance)

Vice President (Internal)

Vice President (External)

Vice President (Student Affairs)

You may only apply to ONE position.

President

- The President shall be the chief officer and spokesperson of the FYC.
- The President shall be responsible for calling meetings of the FYC if a weekly meeting time is not agreed upon or if an emergency meeting must be held.
- The President shall call to order all FYC meetings.
- The President shall be responsible for preparing an agenda for each meeting of the FYC, to be disseminated to all members at least 24 hours in advance of each meeting.
- The President shall, along with the Vice-President (External Affairs), build and maintain the relationship between the FYC and SSMU.
- The President shall be responsible for the overall administration of the FYC's agenda, and shall delegate tasks to the appropriate members of the FYC accordingly.

Vice President (Finance)

- The Vice-President (Finance) shall, with support from the SSMU Vice-President (Finance), keep the FYC informed as to the financial status of the FYC.
- The Vice-President (Finance), in coordination with the SSMU Vice-President (Internal Affairs) and the SSMU Vice-President (Finance), shall make freely available to all first-year students the budget, debits, and credits of the FYC.
- The Vice-President (Finance) shall remain accountable to the FYC and the SSMU Vice-President (Finance) for all matters of funding and sponsorship.
- The Vice-President (Finance) shall be responsible for the oversight of financial tasks related to all activities of the FYC.
- The Vice-President (Finance) shall spearhead sponsorship proposals and financial contracts but shall not make any binding agreements without the approval of the FYC

Vice President (Internal)

- The Vice-President (Internal Affairs) shall oversee the online presence of FYC, managing the listserv, the FYC's website, all FYC social media accounts, and any other channels of communication.
- The Vice-President (Internal Affairs) shall coordinate the administration of the FYC, including, but not limited to, staffing, room booking, and supplies collection.
- The Vice-President (Internal Affairs) shall regularly update an organised schedule/calendar of events to be shared.
- The Vice-President (Internal Affairs) shall serve as the FYC's ombudsperson, bringing every complaint to the SSMU Vice-President (Internal Affairs) and subsequently either addressing any given complaint internally or directing the complainant to the SSMU Equity Commissioners.

Vice President (Internal)

- The Vice-President (Internal Affairs) shall maintain the FYC's email account and shall reply to email enquiries in a timely fashion.
- The Vice-President (Internal Affairs) shall update the FYC's website and social media pages as necessary, with appropriate aid from the SSMU Vice-President (Internal Affairs) and relevant SSMU permanent staff members.
- The Vice-President (Internal Affairs) shall serve as recording secretary during FYC meetings.

Vice President (External)

- The Vice-President (External Affairs) shall be responsible for fostering the relationship between the FYC and SSMU, as well as various faculty, inter-faculty, school, and departmental student associations.
- The Vice-President (External Affairs) shall be the representative for all first-year students on the SSMU Legislative Council.
- The Vice-President (External Affairs) shall sit on the SSMU Legislative Council, attending bi-weekly meetings, and serving on at least one (1) SSMU subcommittee, such they shall be responsible for providing reports to both councils.
- The Vice-President (External Affairs) shall bring to the Legislative Council any matters pertaining to the first year constituency.

Vice President (External)

- The Vice-President (External Affairs) shall communicate to FYC any external issues which may affect McGill University or its students, especially those issues that have a direct impact on first-year students.
- The Vice-President (External Affairs) shall be responsible for encouraging and maintaining event-planning collaborations with other first-year student groups.
- The Vice-President (External Affairs) shall organise, coordinate, promote, and conduct social, educational, cultural, and political activities or events for the constituency.
- The Vice-President (External Affairs) shall report to the SSMU Vice-President (Internal Affairs) on various matters, including, but not limited to, the archiving of the FYC's official documentation, such as the constitution and FYC exit reports.
-

Vice President (Student Affairs)

- The Vice-President (Student Affairs) shall research, evaluate, and debate principles of issues regarding the first-year student experience. Relevant issues include, but are not limited to, student engagement, academic policy, post-secondary transition, and orientation. These positions shall be communicated to the FYC, which collectively shall propose strategies to the appropriate administrative authorities.
- The Vice-President (Student Affairs) shall promote bilingualism, accessibility, pro-survivor language, and respect both on and off campus, and shall oversee the observation of these principles in FYC events, initiatives, and operations.
- The Vice-President (Student Affairs) shall promote equity in all operations of the FYC.

Vice President (Student Affairs)

- The Vice-President (Student Affairs) shall advocate for, support, and promote a healthy environment on campus by focusing on matters such as mental health, student health..
- The Vice-President (Student Affairs) should serve as an ambassador to the administration, representing and advocating on behalf of incoming students for inclusive orientation activities, accessible academic resources, and social supports. In the event that the President is temporarily absent or temporarily can't fulfil their responsibilities, all Presidential duties shall be assumed by the Vice-President (Student Affairs).

Make sure you are eligible

Eligibility requirements

In order to be eligible, you must:

- Be an SSMU member. All students registered at McGill University shall be Members, except for the following (SSMU Constitution 5.1):
 - students registered in the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences;
 - students registered at the Centre for Continuing Education;
 - students registered in graduate programs; and
 - students who are also full-time members of the teaching staff.
- Be an undergraduate student in their U0 or U1 year who is attending McGill for the first time in good academic standing at McGill are eligible to run.

As an undergraduate student, you are *automatically* a member!

Completing the Nomination Form

Élections de l'AEUM Elections SSMU

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinabae.

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinabae, traditional territories.

elections@ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | elections.ssmu.ca | 3501 rue Peel, Montréal, QC, H3A 1W7



First Year Council - Nomination Kit

Personal Information

Name _____

Faculty _____ Program _____ Year _____

Phone # _____ McGill Email _____

Pronouns _____ Student ID # _____

Position sought

☐ President	☐ Vice-President (Finance)	☐ Vice-President (Internal Affairs)	☐ Vice-President (Student Affairs)	☐ Vice-President (External Affairs)
------------------------------------	---	--	---	--

Please print your name in the square below as you wish it will specifically appear in the electoral ballot.

(*Note: Prefixes such as Mrs., Mr., Miss, as well as titles and degrees of any kind, are not permissible):

If you choose to run as part of a coalition, please indicate the name. A coalition must consist of at least two candidates.

The name will be subject to the approval of Elections SSMU. Your coalition affiliation will appear next to your name on the ballot. You may add, remove, or change your affiliation any time prior to the start of the polling period.

Contact Information Disclosure

As candidates are not permitted to approach campus publications or student media themselves, Elections SSMU Officers will forward a full list of candidates to campus media, including your contact information at the end of Nomination Period unless you opt out. Do you give Elections SSMU permission to release your phone number and e-mail?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Yes, to email only
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other: _____

At times we may receive questions from SSMU members or organizations about you and/or your platform. As we are a non-partisan organization, we will provide no response to such questions. If SSMU members want to make clarifications or speak to you directly, do you give Elections SSMU permission to release your phone number and e-mail?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Yes, to email only
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other: _____

I have read and completed all of the steps provided in the instructions of this kit.

Signature _____ Date _____

Nomination Kit - FYC Fall 2026 | 6

Coalitions

You may form coalitions with other candidates and engage in slate campaigning. You will have the choose to indicate that on the ballot, which will be put in parenthesis next to your name.

- Coalition must consist of at least two candidates.
- Coalition name will be subject to approval of Elections SSMU
- You may add, remove, or change your affiliation any time prior to the start of polling period (March 9, 2026)

Contact information disclosure

- Campaigns are not permitted to approach campus publications or student media. (IRs 6.14.1) Therefore, a full list of candidates' contact information will be sent from Elections SSMU unless you express not to in your nomination package.
- You may decide if you can realize your contact information to individuals or organizations that are not student media.

Élections de l'AEUM Elections SSMU

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

elections@ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | elections.ssmu.ca | 3501 rue Peel, Montréal, QC, H3A 1W7



Attestation Of Academic Standing

I, _____, the undersigned, hereby state that I am in Satisfactory Academic Standing and will be a registered undergraduate student in their U0 or U1 year who is attending McGill for the first time at McGill University in the 2026-2027 Academic year. I further authorise Elections SSMU to confirm such information with the Registrar of McGill University:

Signature

Date

Submitting this Nomination Form

Please submit this nomination form and your proof of enrollment (Minerva: Student Menu > Student Record Menu > Letters - Proof of Enrollment).

Please note, that once you've submitted the first of this nomination form you are not obligated to run - you may withdraw your candidacy anytime during the polling and campaigning period. However, once the polling period starts your name will remain on the ballot.

Next Steps

To be completed before Monday, September 14 at 23:59:

- ☐ Wait for confirmation from Elections SSMU that the form was received and obtain Google forms link for collecting signatures.
- ☐ Collect signatures! Ensure you have at least 25 signatures and from only first year undergraduate students (U0/U1 students who are new to McGill)
- ☐ Once you are done collecting signatures, submit the final list to Elections SSMU for verification. We will check if everyone is an eligible student and if there are any duplicates within your list.

Steps after nomination period:

- ☐ Wait for confirmation from Elections SSMU that you are officially a candidate!
- ☐ Attend the Mandatory Candidates' Meeting.
- ☐ Submit pensketches and photo if desired.

Don't forget to include your Proof of Enrollment please!

Getting Signatures

Requirements

- 25 signatures
- Please make sure they are incoming undergraduate students in U0/U1, and not PGSS or MCSS. Those signatures will not count.
- Elections SSMU will verify the signatures against the membership list. We recommend collecting 30 signatures as often a few are invalid due to typos or eligibility.

Verification by Elections SSMU

- We will ensure everyone is a SSMU member and eligible.
- Please be mindful that the Elections team requires time to verify the signatures, and that signature collection (including any revisions needed) should be completed at end of polling period.
- If your signatures are verified and approved, you are now officially a candidate!

END OF NOMINATION PERIOD:

Monday, September 14, 2026

**IF THERE ARE LESS THAN 2 CANDIDATES IN A POSITION, NOMINATIONS
FOR THAT POSITION WILL BE EXTENDED TO:**

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Historical Number of Candidates

Position	2025	2023	2022	2021	2020
President	7	1	3	1	5
Vice-President (Internal)	6	3	1	1	2
Vice-President (External)	6	2	1	3	2
Vice-President (Student Affairs)	7	3	1	1	2
Vice-President (Finance)	1	1	1	3	1

Next Steps

Campaigning

- All candidates must attend the **Candidates' Meeting**, which covers the campaigning rules and answer your questions. This meeting will take place **September 16th, 2026 at 6:00PM.**
- Please contact Elections SSMU ASAP if you cannot make it to this meeting due to an unavoidable conflict (for e.g. an exam). Those who do not attend this meeting without notice will be sanctioned.
- **You must attend the Candidates' Meeting in order to campaign.**
- Other SSMU members can campaign for you - but you must submit a list of members before you start campaigning, more information to be given during the meeting.
- You are limited to **\$100** of fair market value. There are no reimbursements.

Pensketches

All candidates have the right to pen a brief outline about themselves, their qualifications and the ideas that they will bring to the position being sought. Video pensketches may also be used, with consent from candidates and at the discretion of the Chief Returning Officer. This information will be uploaded onto the Elections SSMU website and Online Voting System. You may also include 1 picture of yourself to appear on the ballot.

1. **Written Pensketch:** 150 words English, 175 words French.
2. **Video Pensketch:** Maximum 60 seconds.
3. **Instagram Pensketch:** 50 words English, 60 words French.

Pensketches and pictures are due on **September 16th, 2026 at 11:59PM.**

Meet the Candidates Session

- Depends on you!
- Do you want a space to express your platform and debate with other candidates in front of first years?
- Let us know your thoughts!

Polling Period

**Monday, September 21st, 2026 at 9:00AM -
Friday, October 2nd, 2026 at 9:00PM**

Tell your friends to vote!

Quorum = 15%

<15% Voter Turnout = no one gets elected

Results: Within a few hours, maximum 24 hours.

Sent to your emails and announced on Instagram.

Instant Runoff Voting

- A method of calculating ranked ballots.
- All first-choice votes shall be counted and allocated to each candidate or Referendum question option.
- If no candidate or Referendum question option receives a majority of the total vote, the candidate or Referendum question option with the fewest votes shall be declared eliminated, and the first choice ballots allocated to that selection shall be redistributed in accordance with the following choice indicated on each voters' ballot.
- This system of eliminating the candidate or Referendum question option with the fewest votes and redistributing ballots according to the next choice of remaining candidates shall continue until one (1) candidate or Referendum question option achieves a Simple Majority

Vice-President (Internal Affairs)

Votes required to elect an option: 2307

ROUND 1		
	Maggie Tang	1873 votes
	Mia Duddy-Hayashibara (S.T.A.N.D.)	1296 votes
	Sophie Smithson	935 votes
	Anna El Murr	445 votes
	None of the candidates	64 votes
	Eliminated None of the candidates due to: lowest 1st preference	
ROUND 2		
	Maggie Tang	1884 (+11) votes
	Mia Duddy-Hayashibara (S.T.A.N.D.)	1299 (+3) votes
	Sophie Smithson	945 (+10) votes
	Anna El Murr	454 (+9) votes
	Exhausted votes	31 (+31) votes
	Eliminated Anna El Murr due to: lowest 1st preference	
ROUND 3		
	Maggie Tang	2048 (+164) votes
	Mia Duddy-Hayashibara (S.T.A.N.D.)	1360 (+61) votes
	Sophie Smithson	1097 (+152) votes
	Exhausted votes	108 (+77) votes
	Eliminated Sophie Smithson due to: lowest 1st preference	
ROUND 4		
	Maggie Tang	2768 (+720) votes
	Mia Duddy-Hayashibara (S.T.A.N.D.)	1555 (+195) votes
	Exhausted votes	290 (+182) votes
	Elected Maggie Tang due to: highest 1st preference	
ROUND 5		
	Maggie Tang	Elected 2768 votes
	Mia Duddy-Hayashibara (S.T.A.N.D.)	1555 votes
	Exhausted votes	290 votes

Instant Runoff Voting

- There is a “None” option for every position
- An abstain option is available.
- Members do not need to rank all options.

Voter Turnout

Get your friends to vote, please!

Turnout by Faculty - 2026 Executive Elections

Rank	Faculty	Electors	Election		Referendum		Avg.
			Voted	%	Voted	%	
1	FACULTY OF LAW	617	231	37.4	228	37	37.2
2	SCHOOL OF PHYS & OCC THERAPY	225	93	41.3	35	15.6	28.45
3	INTERFACULTY, B.A. & SC.	620	190	30.6	120	19.4	25
4	FACULTY OF ARTS	7556	2057	27.2	1402	18.6	22.9
5	FACULTY OF SCIENCE	4934	1271	25.8	946	19.2	22.5
6	SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MUSIC	437	99	22.7	83	19	20.85
7	FACULTY OF ENGINEERING	3647	921	25.3	569	15.6	20.45
8	DESAUTELS FACULTY MANAGEMENT	2361	557	23.6	255	10.8	17.2
9	FACULTY OF EDUCATION	1615	312	19.3	203	12.6	15.95
10	INGRAM SCHOOL OF NURSING	844	136	16.1	123	14.6	15.35
11	FAC DENTAL MEDICINE & ORAL HS	169	24	14.2	23	13.6	13.9
12	FACULTY OF MEDICINE & HLTH SCI	931	128	13.7	102	11	12.35
	TOTAL	23957	6019	25.1	4089	17.1	21.1

Thank you!

*Mike Lee, Chief Returning Officer
elections@ssmu.ca*

