Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Students' Society of McGill University

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

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SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

September 10, 2026

The regular bi-monthly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) was held in **room 232 of the Leacock building** on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 18:00.

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

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

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker gives 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'AÉUM reconnaît que l'Université McGill est située sur le territoire traditionnel et non cédé des nations Anishinaabeg et Haudenosaunee. L'AÉUM 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'AÉUM s'engage à respecter les lois et coutumes traditionnelles de ces territoires.

3. Attendance

The Speaker takes attendance.

4. Recess
    a. Signing NDAs

A five-minute recess is held to allow members to sign the NDAs.

APPROVED

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

The agenda is distributed.

The Speaker asks if there are any amendments to the agenda.

Vice-President Jason Wang moves to suspend the rules to add a Notice of Motion to amend the Internal Regulations of Governance, seconded by Councillor Letham.

Councillor Jones moves to amend the motion regarding the approval of movie night to require safeguards ensuring that funds (inaudible).

Officer Knickerbocker raises a point of order and clarifies that Councillor Jones would need to either remove that motion or add another motion to the agenda.

The Speaker explains that deliberation on the motion will provide an opportunity to propose the amendment.

The Speaker asks if there are any other amendments to the agenda.

Seeing none, the Chair asks if anyone is opposed to adopting the agenda.

Seeing none, the agenda is adopted as amended.

6. Announcements
    a. 2026-2027 Legislative Council Reporting Schedule (Deputy Speaker Beeai)

Deputy Speaker Beeai announces the Legislative Council reporting schedule. She notes that technical difficulties prevent her from displaying it on the screen and asks members to access the schedule, which she will also distribute by email. It covers committee, faculty, and executive reports for both the fall and winter semesters. Members must join at least one committee during the academic year and coordinate reporting with their committee. Each faculty representative must report at least once per semester on faculty events and activities, including those of faculty societies, according to the schedule. She encourages members to review their reporting dates and add them to their calendars to accommodate academic and other commitments.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Vice-President Lai notes that the Mental Health Committee appears on the reporting schedule, although the mental health portfolio has been restructured as wellness under University Affairs. The committee is inactive and no longer has a Mental Health Commissioner to chair it.

APPROVED

Deputy Speaker Beeai thanks Vice-President Lai for bringing this to her attention and confirms that she will remove the committee from the reporting schedule.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions.

Seeing none, announcement 6a is concluded.

b. Reminder re: training quiz and NDAs (Speaker Reid)

The Speaker confirms that all NDAs have been signed and reminds Councillors that they must complete the required training. Those who attended the Legislative Council retreat the previous weekend are exempt from the training quiz, having demonstrated completion of the training. Those who did not attend must complete the quiz distributed by email by September 13. Failure to complete it by the deadline will result in half a day of unexcused absence being recorded. The Speaker asks if there are any questions or concerns.

Vice-President Lai adds that Senate Caucus representatives who were absent from two of the training sessions must also complete the quiz.

Announcement 6b is concluded.

The Speaker asks if there are any other announcements.

Officer Knickerbocker announces that Activities Night takes place the following Wednesday and Thursday from 4 to 8 p.m. in the University Centre. She encourages members to attend, invite their friends, and engage with the clubs and services.

The announcement period is concluded.

7. Question Period **(5)**
8. Recess, Consent Items **(5)**
9. Motions
    a. Motion to suspend the rules to amend the IRs of Governance without a notice of motion (VP J. Wang, Councillor Letham) - **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**
        i. Motion to amend IRs of Governance (VP J. Wang, Councillor Giraud)
            1. Amendment to 7.4.c. IRs of Governance: "Sit on at least one (1) committee of the Legislative Council [or a committee of the Board of Directors], or participate in at least one (1) other University organisation whose terms of reference require the participation of one (1) or more Councillors. - **RESCINDED**

APPROVED

The Speaker asks if anyone is opposed to adopting the motion.

Councillor Crema-Black raises a point of order, asking why it cannot be presented as a notice of motion for consideration at the next meeting.

Vice-President Jason Wang explains that the proposed amendment to the Internal Regulations of Governance involves a minor wording change. The standard procedure would normally apply but suggests addressing the change immediately to ensure that the session operates in accordance with the governing documents.

Deputy Speaker Beeai explains that amendments to the Internal Regulations normally require a notice of motion. The proposed change would allow participation in either a Legislative Council committee or a Board of Directors committee to count toward each Councillor's minimum committee requirement. Adopting the amendment now would allow committee recruitment to proceed at the current meeting.

Vice-President Lai notes that the purpose is to allow recruitment for Board of Directors committees but that no motion to amend the Internal Regulations is currently on the agenda.

Deputy Speaker Beeai explains that, if the suspension of the rules passes, the amendment motion will be added to the agenda.

Officer Knickerbocker asks to review the written motion before deciding whether to add it to the agenda, including the consultations conducted and the provisions of the Internal Regulations of Governance affected.

Deputy Speaker Beeai confirms that the written motion is available and is being added to the agenda.

Officer Knickerbocker asks whether the amendment motion has a seconder and whether the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary have been consulted.

Deputy Speaker Beeai confirms that the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary and the Governance Affairs Coordinator have been consulted. She identifies Vice-President Jason Wang as the mover and Councillor Giraud as the seconder.

Officer Knickerbocker asks whether the Secretariat would look favourably upon a motion to suspend the rules to add a separate motion containing sections 9a i and 9a i 1 to the agenda, as this would be distinct from motion 9a.

The Speaker confirms that the Secretariat would look favourably upon such a motion.

Vice-President Lai moves the motion, seconded by Councillor Hutu.

The Speaker asks if anyone is opposed to adding the motion to the agenda.

APPROVED

Seeing none, the motion is added to the agenda.

Vice-President Jason Wang yields his time to Deputy Speaker Beeai.

Deputy Speaker Beeai presents Motion 9a. She explains that section 7.4 of the Internal Regulations of Governance currently requires Councillors to sit on at least one Legislative Council committee or participate in at least one other university organization whose terms of reference require Councillor participation. The proposed amendment would expand this requirement to include Board of Directors committees, given decreased interest in these committees and the importance of establishing them as soon as possible. Allowing participation in Board of Directors committees to count toward the minimum committee requirement would encourage Councillors to join them. She stands for questions.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Councillor Duncan, acting as proxy for Councillor Kwambette, asks for clarification on whether the amendment applies to committees overseen by the Board of Directors rather than membership on the Board itself.

Deputy Speaker Beeai explains that the proposed wording requires Councillors to sit on at least one committee of the Legislative Council or Board of Directors or participate in at least one other organizational committee. She is open to proposed amendments to clarify the wording.

Councillor Faulkner shares the same interpretation and suggests clarifying that the provision refers to Board of Directors committees rather than membership on the Board itself.

Vice-President Jason Wang moves to amend the wording to specify a committee of the Legislative Council or a committee of the Board of Directors.

Councillor Giraud indicates that the amendment is friendly.

Officer Knickerbocker asks whether the amendment would allow a Councillor to serve on a Board of Directors committee without serving on a Legislative Council committee. She also asks whether the movers have considered the potential decrease in participation in Legislative Council committees that have historically struggled to meet their membership requirements.

Deputy Speaker Beeai confirms that this possibility has been considered and notes that both Legislative Council and Board of Directors committees have historically faced recruitment difficulties. The proposed amendment reflects a review of committee responsibilities, particularly those requiring prompt action at the beginning of the academic year. Certain Board of Directors committees are identified as needing additional recruitment incentives more urgently than some Legislative Council

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committees. Spaces on Board of Directors committees are limited and expected to fill quickly, after which Councillors would join Legislative Council committees.

Councillor Faulkner asks which Board of Directors committees have greater recruitment needs than Legislative Council committees.

Deputy Speaker Beeai identifies the Nominating Committee as requiring the most attention, noting difficulties in meeting quorum and filling its membership during the previous year. Given that the need for the committee may arise unexpectedly, it must remain operational throughout the academic year. The proposed incentive would help fill its positions.

Parliamentarian Chan adds that the Nominating Committee is responsible for recruiting members of the Board of Directors, which is essential to SSMU's operations. Some directors' terms end in October, making it necessary to recruit Nominating Committee members before recruiting new directors. She cites this urgency as the reason for presenting the proposal as a motion rather than a notice of motion.

Officer Knickerbocker asks whether the Board of Directors committee positions in question have previously been open to Councillors or reserved for other SSMU members, such as members at large.

Deputy Speaker Beeai confirms that Councillors have previously been eligible for these positions but notes that recruitment efforts have lacked sufficient incentives, despite efforts to promote the Nominating Committee to Councillors.

Officer Knickerbocker clarifies that she is asking whether the positions are specifically designated for Councillors rather than other members.

Deputy Speaker Beeai explains that the vacant positions are general positions rather than positions specifically designated for Councillors.

Officer Knickerbocker asks how many positions across Board of Directors committees are available for Councillors to fill at the current meeting and how many Legislative Council committee positions need to be filled.

The Speaker explains that answering the question requires reviewing the terms of reference of each committee and asks for a moment to confirm the details.

President Abu Alkhair raises a point of order and asks whether consideration of the motion could be postponed until the next Council meeting to allow time to prepare the necessary information and complete the appropriate consultations.

Deputy Speaker Beeai explains that committee members must be recruited promptly so that the committees can begin their work. The Nominating Committee must begin recruiting directors whose predecessors' terms are ending and that the Steering Committee must be established before the

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following week's Legislative Council meeting. Presenting all committee options now would make recruitment more consistent and avoid Councillors changing committees after additional options become available.

President Abu Alkhair asks whether proper procedure and review of the governing documents should also be prioritized rather than expediting the process.

Deputy Speaker Beeai acknowledges the point and reiterates that Councillors should have all available options before volunteering. She emphasizes the immediate need for Steering and Nominating Committee members and expresses concern about changing Councillors' options after they have committed to committees.

Councillor Letham asks whether it is reasonable to assume that Councillors would not be blindsided by a later amendment, given that the proposal has already been raised and explained.

Deputy Speaker Beeai acknowledges that this is a valid point.

Councillor Duncan asks whether he may move to postpone consideration of the motion until later in the meeting to allow time to resolve outstanding concerns.

Deputy Speaker Beeai explains that the motion proposes a minor wording change and suggests that postponement would not necessarily result in changes to its content. She encourages members to raise their questions during the current discussion and suggests that the Secretariat may look favourably upon postponement if the discussion identifies necessary revisions. She questions the usefulness of postponing the motion if no changes are expected.

Councillor Faulkner asks whether members could first be selected for the Steering Committee and the other committee identified as essential, with recruitment for less urgent committees deferred until members have more time to review the motion.

Deputy Speaker Beeai acknowledges the suggestion and agrees that gauging interest in the Steering and Nominating Committees could help determine whether the proposed amendment is necessary.

Officer Knickerbocker asks whether the movers would be willing to remove the proposed amendments to the Internal Regulations of Governance and instead propose a motion to fill the Nominating Committee. Councillors could volunteer for this committee in addition to their required Legislative Council committee, avoiding the need to amend the regulations.

Vice-President J.Wang expresses support for the suggestion and moves to withdraw the motion and instead proceed with selecting members for the Nominating and Steering Committees.

APPROVED

Deputy Speaker Beeai notes that committee selection is already included as a discussion item at the end of the agenda and explains that it can either remain there or be moved forward.

Vice-President Jason Wang indicates that he favours retaining the item at the end of the discussion period so that Council can proceed with the other agenda items.

The Speaker asks if Councillor Giraud is also in favour. Councillor Giraud confirms that he is in favour.

Officer Knickerbocker raises a point of inquiry, asking whether the motion proposing amendments to the Internal Regulations remains on the agenda but has been moved to the end.

Deputy Speaker Beeai clarifies that committee appointments are already listed as discussion items at the end of the agenda, including the appointment of four councillors to the Steering Committee and councillors to the Nominating Committee. She explains that the conversation will be deferred to those items and that the proposed motion may be revisited if positions remain vacant afterward.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions.

Seeing none, the Speaker tables the motion.

b. Adoption of Standing Rules - **POSTPONED**
c. Motion to run a special plebiscite referendum on the McGill Yearbook (President Abu Alkhair) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
    i. Motion to amend the motion to include "Up to what price would you be willing to pay for the yearbook." (Councillor Crema Black, Councillor Dan) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

President Abu Alkhair moves to extend his speaking time from two minutes to three minutes, seconded by Councillor Letham.

The Speaker asks if anyone is opposed.

Officer Knickerbocker is opposed.

The Speaker asks if anyone abstains.

Seeing none, the motion to extend speaking time is approved by a majority.

President Abu Alkhair presents Motion 9c. Old McGill, a yearbook established in 1898, was published by SSMU until 2016. He has worked throughout the summer with the General Manager, executives, and Communications team to explore reviving the project. Before determining its funding or scope, he proposes a plebiscite question to assess student interest. He had intended to bring copies of the yearbook to Council but was unable to do so. He proposes placing the question on the ballot for a

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two-week voting period beginning the following Wednesday, which he believes is September 16. The results would inform further consultation on his proposal and Council's consideration of whether to allocate funding and resources to the project.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Councillor Jones expresses support for reviving the yearbook but questions the value of a plebiscite, given the anticipated low turnout and concerns about its representativeness, compared with deliberation by the President and other executives.

President Abu Alkhair asks Councillor Jones to repeat the question, indicating that he does not understand its scope or context.

Councillor Jones clarifies that he is asking how much value the plebiscite would offer in assessing student opinion, given the expected low turnout and concerns that the results would not represent the broader student body.

President Abu Alkhair challenges the assumption of low turnout, citing participation in previous referenda, including approximately 18% in an earlier referendum. Elections SSMU has revised its promotional efforts and sends follow-up emails encouraging students to vote.

Councillor Lam asks whether the reasons for the yearbook's discontinuation will be publicized.

President Abu Alkhair confirms that they will and explains that, according to past exit reports, the principal reasons are a lack of prioritization by Executives at the time and issues with the funding model. His proposal in Appendix A outlines alternative funding models based on the SSMU Handbook's approach to printing, sponsorship, and financing.

Councillor Letham asks whether there is an estimate of the project's cost.

President Abu Alkhair states that he has contacted several publishers, one of which quotes $48 per yearbook for an order of 500 copies, as outlined in the proposal. SSMU previously generated a profit from yearbook sales and argues that it should instead subsidize the yearbook to improve affordability and accessibility. The proposed funding models account for printing, potential staffing, software, and photography costs, while partially subsidizing the purchase price. The proposed prices include $30, $25, and an early-bird price of $20.

Councillor Letham asks whether the plebiscite could include a question about how much students would be willing to pay, noting that this is not included in the proposed questions.

President Abu Alkhair confirms that the proposed plebiscite does not include such a question and indicates that he would be amenable to an amendment adding it.

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Councillor Letham invites suggestions on the wording and format of the question, including whether it should specify a price or ask students how much they would be willing to pay.

Vice-President Lai raises a point of order, noting that Council has not yet entered the discussion period.

The Speaker asks if there are any other questions.

Seeing none, the Speaker opens the floor to discussion.

Vice-President Lai emphasizes that plebiscites allow Executives to consult significantly more students than individual outreach or surveys. Even a 15% turnout among 25,000 students would yield thousands of responses, compared with the hundreds that executives might reach directly. A plebiscite allows students already participating in an election to provide input on another issue.

Officer Knickerbocker stresses the importance of consulting students to ensure that decisions reflect their preferences. Executives and Legislative Council must seek student input to fulfil their representative responsibilities rather than exercise unilateral decision-making power.

Councillor Giraud raises concerns about copyright.

President Abu Alkhair explains that copyright considerations and the Old McGill name are addressed in the Memorandum of Agreement. Proceeding with the project would require consultation with McGill's Communications department. He has discussed coordinating event photography, faculty spotlights, and coverage of faculty initiatives with faculty presidents.

Councillor Jones expresses support for consultation but raises concerns that selection bias could make the plebiscite results unrepresentative of the student body and limit their value in informing executive decisions.

President Abu Alkhair indicates that he does not understand the comment.

Councillor Jones clarifies that respondents may disproportionately represent particular groups within the student body. He questions whether such a sample should routinely guide decisions, including relatively minor decisions about a program that he suggests would largely fund itself.

The Speaker reminds members that Council is in the discussion period and that responses to comments are not required.

Councillor Letham acknowledges that students who respond to the plebiscite may be more involved in student life and therefore more likely to purchase a yearbook. She suggests that pre-orders could help determine demand and that Council could assess how best to interpret the results afterward, noting that consultation about a product may differ from consultation about policy.

APPROVED

Officer Knickerbocker emphasizes that the plebiscite would gauge interest without committing SSMU to a particular project structure. Consulting a portion of the student body is preferable to proceeding without consultation and would provide more information for the next stage. The project would not begin until the following year; she expresses support for the motion.

Councillor Dan states that she is satisfied that the plebiscite would be representative and moves to call the question, seconded by Officer Knickerbocker.

The Speaker asks if anyone is opposed to calling the question.

Councillor Crema-Black requests a review of the wording of the proposed question about how much students would be willing to pay and moves to amend the motion to include the final wording before the vote.

Officer Knickerbocker explains that a motion to amend must specify the proposed wording before it can be seconded.

Councillor Crema-Black moves to amend the motion to include the multiple-choice question, Which of the following yearbook prices would you be willing to pay with options of $20, $30, $35, and $40, seconded by Councillor Dan.

Deputy Speaker Beeai conveys the Secretariat's suggestion that discussion focus on the question format rather than its wording, as the format may have a greater effect on the results.

Councillor Dan suggests that the question not be multiple choice, expressing concern that respondents would select the lowest price.

Councillor Crema-Black accepts the suggestion as a friendly amendment.

Vice-President Jason Wang suggests asking the maximum amount students would be willing to pay for a yearbook, explaining that this would help identify how many respondents would be willing to purchase it at a given price or below.

Councillor Crema-Black and Councillor Dan are amenable to the suggestion.

Councillor Letham states that yearbooks purchased through Canadian student unions typically cost between $30 and $55, while some student unions, such as UBC, offer self-printed custom books costing between $15 and $40. She suggests including typical prices as context to help respondents assess a reasonable amount. This is a discussion point rather than a proposed amendment.

Councillor Dan suggests that asking respondents for their maximum willingness to pay would address the concern, as they could indicate their limit regardless of the average yearbook price.

APPROVED

Officer Knickerbocker moves to call the question on Motion 9c i as written, seconded by Councillor Hutu.

The Speaker asks if anyone is opposed to calling the question.

Seeing none, the Speaker asks if anyone is opposed to the amended wording of the motion.

Seeing none, the amendment is approved.

Simone, a member of the gallery, raises a point of order and asks whether the proposed voting period from September 16 to 30 would constitute a special referendum rather than the regular referendum. She requests that the wording explicitly reflect this distinction.

President Abu Alkhair reads the proposed resolution, which seeks approval to place the plebiscite question outlined in Appendix B on a ballot administered by Elections SSMU from September 16 to 30. The resolution refers to a ballot rather than a referendum.

Simone clarifies that a special referendum must be called to create the ballot and that this must be reflected in the motion.

President Abu Alkhair acknowledges the clarification.

The Speaker asks Councillor Crema-Black whether the proposed change is a friendly amendment. She agrees.

The Speaker asks if anyone is opposed to passing the motion by unanimous consent.

Seeing none, Motion 9c passes unanimously.

10. Recess: **19:49-***
11. Motions
    a. Motion Regarding the Approval of Movie Night as a New SSMU Event (VP Tang, Councillor Croquelois) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Vice-President Tang presents Motion 11a. The fall 2025 plebiscite indicates student interest in more free, accessible, non-alcoholic events, including movie nights. She proposes making Movie Night an official SSMU event on the Lower Field in partnership with TVM and potentially McGill. McGill has helped secure the venue and may contribute half of the event budget. The events are scheduled for Tuesdays, September 22 and 29, at 7:30 p.m., with a large outdoor screen, a sound system, and free snacks and beverages. Attendance is free and open to all McGill members in the Greater Montreal area. The timing accommodates classes and avoids later-week social commitments. Leacock 132 is being considered as a backup venue in case of rain. She outlines consultations with the Vice-President Finance regarding the budget; the President and General Manager regarding planning and logistics;

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the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary regarding the screen rental invoice; the Governance Affairs Coordinator regarding the motion; and the Vice-President External and Sponsorship Specialist regarding sponsorship. TVM is also assisting with sponsorship, providing volunteers while SSPIN is not yet operational, and producing a post-event promotional video. She notes that Provost Angela Campbell has requested clarification on how McGill's potential financial contribution would be publicized and invites Council to consider the benefits and implications of including McGill in event promotion. *10 Things I Hate About You* is the preferred film following two polls on SSMU's main Instagram account, while McGill has requested a Quebec-related film. She welcomes other film suggestions. She explains that Legislative Council approval is required before the proposal proceeds to the Board of Directors for budget ratification. The complete budget appears in Appendix A, followed by the event proposal. The Lower Field is officially booked and preparations can proceed upon approval.

The Speaker opens the floor to questions.

Councillor Giraud asks whether there are precedents for close collaboration with McGill on events, given SSMU's role in advocating for students, including in opposition to the University and asks for examples and whether such collaboration is common.

Vice-President Tang explains that Provost Angela Campbell's assistance is instrumental in securing the Lower Field booking. McGill has offered to cover half of the costs, which would reduce SSMU's expenses for this new event.

Councillor Jones asks whether the remaining $6,000 would come from Campus Life and Engagement funding or a surplus from the previous year.

Vice-President Tang defers her time to Vice-President Jason Wang.

Vice-President Jason Wang explains that internal SSMU events, including Valentine's Day events and balls, are financed through the operating fund, which receives revenue from the non-opt-outable student base fee. Movie Night would also be financed through this fund.

Councillor Jones asks whether the operating fund has a surplus from the previous year or whether other expenditures would be reduced to finance the event.

Vice-President Tang defers her time to Vice-President Jason Wang.

Vice-President Jason Wang clarifies that SSMU collects approximately $3.3 million annually for the operating fund. The previous Vice-President Finance prepared the 2026-2027 annual budget in March and April 2026, projecting a $15,000 surplus. Considering the Society's other activities, the operating fund can absorb the projected $6,000 expense, or $12,000 if SSMU proceeds without McGill's contribution.

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Councillor Giraud reiterates their request for examples of events previously co-financed by McGill.

Vice-President Tang states that she cannot recall an example and defers the remainder of her time to President Abu Alkhair.

President Abu Alkhair cites Frosh as a possible example, noting that it was previously under SSMU around 2015-2016 and subsequently under Campus Life and Engagement following the pandemic, with SSMU providing support alongside faculty associations. He also refers to initiatives in the 1980s, including a welcome banner for incoming students supported by the Alumni Association and SSMU. He has not reviewed the full history of events and that other examples may exist.

Councillor Jones asks whether the projected $15,000 surplus assumes that Faculty Olympics will not take place this year.

Officer Knickerbocker raises a point of order, noting that questions should be directed through the Speaker and that Vice-President Jason Wang is not presenting the motion.

Vice-President Tang defers her time to Vice-President Jason Wang.

Vice-President Jason Wang confirms that the projected $15,000 surplus accounts for an anticipated $9,600 deficit from Faculty Olympics and assumes that the event will proceed.

The Speaker asks if there are any further questions.

Seeing none, the Speaker opens the floor to discussion.

Councillor Faulkner suggests further consultation with students on the choice of film, noting that 48 responses may not be representative of all 24,000 students.

Officer Knickerbocker refers to the previous year's plebiscite, which reaches a larger number of students and indicates interest in free, movie-related, and alcohol-free events.

Vice-President Jason Wang clarifies that Councillor Faulkner's concern relates to the choice of film rather than whether to hold a movie event.

President Abu Alkhair suggests that Council discuss the choice of film during the current meeting.

Councillor Hutu asks how the film options are presented and whether respondents select from predetermined choices or independently suggested *10 Things I Hate About You*.

Vice-President Tang explains that the poll asked students which films they would like to see without providing predetermined options.

Officer Knickerbocker notes that the motion would establish Movie Night as a recurring event series, allowing other films to be screened throughout the year and in future years. The opportunity to attend

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a movie event is more important than the specific film selected, provided that it is appropriate and non-offensive.

Councillor Faulkner respectfully disagrees, emphasizing the potential $12,000 expenditure and the limited consultation on film selection. Broader consultation would help ensure an inclusive event and encourage attendance, as students may choose not to attend if they are uninterested in the selected film.

Councillor Letham suggests considering Heated Rivalry as Quebec-related content, noting that it receives Quebec tax credits.

Vice-President Lai asks whether Heated Rivalry is a film.

Councillor Letham acknowledges that it is not and clarifies that they are raising it for consideration.

Officer Knickerbocker expresses a preference for prioritizing Quebec film studios, writers, and creators to provide an audience for their work. She encourages Council to return to discussing whether to hold the event and expresses support for collaboration between SSMU, McGill, and TVM. The proposal responds to student feedback and brings campus groups together to provide events students want.

Councillor Duncan expresses support for accessible, non-alcoholic events but raises concerns about the $6,000 cost. He suggests considering a less expensive projector or an alternative venue, emphasizing that the event is funded through student fees.

Councillor Jones asks Vice-President Tang to explain the benefits of an outdoor venue compared with Leacock 132, given the proportion of costs associated with holding the event outdoors.

Vice-President Tang explains that the intention is to recreate the experience of movies in the park in Quebec and outdoor film events in Toronto's Distillery District. She clarifies that the screen rental costs $3,121.57 per night, amounting to approximately $6,000 for both nights.

President Abu Alkhair notes that the 2010 Old McGill yearbook contains photographs of a previous SSMU movie night on the Lower Field.

Councillor Duncan asks whether the photographs show strong attendance, suggesting that this could help justify the expense.

President Abu Alkhair indicates that he will retrieve the yearbook.

General Manager Proietti compares Movie Night with Four Floors, noting that Four Floors requires tickets, has limited capacity in the University Centre, and costs SSMU significantly more than $6,000. She suggests that Movie Night would offer greater accessibility and potentially lower costs per student,

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as attendees could arrive, leave, and return freely. This comparison does not diminish the value of other events.

Councillor Jones asks about the final deficit from Four Floors after accounting for ticket and alcohol sales.

Vice-President Jason Wang provides the actual revenues, expenses, and reported deficits for Four Floors 2025 and Faculty Olympics 2026. He reports deficits of approximately $34,280 and $34,800, respectively.

Councillor Jones asks how these figures compare with Faculty Olympics 2025 and the previous Gerts St. Patrick's Day event.

Councillor Duncan acknowledges the General Manager's comparison and states that, although they remain concerned about the cost, the event could be worthwhile if attendance is sufficient.

Officer Knickerbocker emphasizes that student fees are intended to support campus services and activities. Movie Night would be an appropriate and efficient use of these fees, offering broad access at a relatively low cost compared with other events.

The Speaker announces that the ten-minute discussion period has elapsed and invites a motion to extend it.

Councillor Letham moves to extend the discussion period by four minutes. Seconded by Councillor Jones.

The Speaker asks if anyone is opposed to extending the discussion period.

Following a vote, the motion to extend the discussion period fails, and discussion concludes.

The Speaker asks if anyone is opposed to approving Motion 11a.

Seeing none, Motion 11a is approved unanimously.

12. Presentations
    a. Join Board, Steering, and Committees (Secretariat)

Speaker Reid, Deputy Speaker Beeai, and Parliamentarian Chan make a presentation to encourage Councillors to apply / volunteer for positions. Speaker Beeai reminds Councillors that they are required to join at least one committee.

Vice-President J. Wang explains how the SSMU collects funds from students to be redistributed, and those decisions are made by the Funding Committee. He encourages Councillors to join and be part of that decision-making process.

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Councillor Crema-Black describes the Solidarity Funding Committee, and some updates to the membership. The Committee funds community projects, and committee members review applications. She encourages Councillors interested in advocacy-focused work to apply.

Vice-President Knickerbocker explains that the Students Groups Committee handles everything related to Clubs, Services, and Independent Student Groups, including applications, reviewing issues related to Student Groups, noting that this year much of the work will be related to the Athletics groups. They also review Services to ensure student fees are used well and address operational issues they may have.

Vice-President Tang encourages Councillors to join SSPN, the event planning committee. Members decide on events, help organize, pick themes, and contribute social media advertising.

Vice-President Lai mentions that the Black Affairs, Indigenous Affairs, and Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committees are under the UA portfolio. They also approve funding applications, and a lot of students benefit and there are many in financial need. Historically these committees have had issues with reaching quorum which means student funding is delayed. These finding applications do not go through the Funding Committee, so members should be subject matter experts.

Councillor Faulkner asks about what happened to the Mental Health Committee and if there is a similar committee now covering its mandate.

Vice-President Lai explains that the Mental Health and Accessibility portfolios under UA have merged under Wellness, given that students experience wellness in different ways and this was causing confusion among students. We now have one Wellness Commissioner, and the reshaping of the portfolio is still being decided and will be coming to Council in the future. Since there is no Mental Health Commissioner anymore, the Mental Health Committee was suspended, however if the Legislative Council would like to create a Wellness Committee that is something that could be done.

b. Presentation of the 2026-2027 LC Standing Rules (Speaker Reid)

Speaker Reid presents the Standing Rules. The biggest difference from the previous year was in changing the order of proceedings to have reports happen following the presentation of Motions.

Vice-President Lai asks about having Old Business and New Business in the rules. Speaker Reid confirms the previous version did not have Motions but rather had this distinction. Deputy Speaker Beeai clarifies that the Old Business item is only added if it is relevant, for example, if something was

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postponed from a previous meeting. She mentions that generally these items get placed under Motions.

Vice-President J. Wang asks if a Motion is being presented following a Notice of Motion if it would be old or new business. Deputy Speaker Beeai confirms it would be new business.

Councillor Giraud asks if Presentations have moved in the order. Speaker Reid confirms they have not.

Vice-President Knickerbocker asks if this document was based on the second version of the Standing Rules from the year before, as it seems different from that version. Speaker Reid mentions they were from the 2025-2026 Drive. He will have to verify if this is the older or newer version.

Vice-President Knickerbocker confirms there is a more updated version in the Drive. She asks if the Secretariat intends to use the older version as a basis or wanted to use the newer version.

Speaker Reid suggests a recess so that the Secretariat can look into the matter.

Council enters a recess.

When Council resumes, Speaker Reid confirms that the updates were made to the incorrect version of the Standing Rules, and suggests rescinding the Motion and adopting the updated version from the previous year as the Standing Rules.

13. Motions
    a. Adoption of Standing Rules
        i. Motion to rescind (Councillor Jones, Councillor Connor)

Councillor Jones motions to rescind the Motion. Seeing no opposition, the Motion is rescinded.

    b. Motion to adopt the 2026-2027 Standing Rules as written (VP Knickerbocker, Councillor Letham) - **APPROVED**

Vice-President Knickerbocker motions to adopt the 2026-2027 Standing Rules as written, which are the updated Standing Rules from the previous year. Seeing opposition, the Speaker proceeds to a vote. With 1 opposed, the motion is approved.

APPROVED

14. For Discussion

Deputy Speaker Beeai reminds Councillors to email her for committee interest. However, given the importance of the Board of Directors and Steering, she asks if people would like to signal their interest now.

a. Appointment of 4 Councillors to Board of Directors (Deputy Speaker Beeai)

Deputy Speaker Beeai reminds Councillors of the requirements for joining the Board.

Councillor Jones asks if a former Councillor can fill this spot. Deputy Speaker Beeai responds that it must be a current Councillor.

Councillor Crema-Black encourages her fellow Councillors to join, stating that if you are interested in law, or finance, or in learning how a not-for-profit works at a Board level making decisions that affect thousands of people, it's an excellent opportunity. She highly encourages people to join

i. Councillor Jones
ii. Councillor Lila
iii. Councillor Crema-Black
iv. Councillor Prendergast

b. Appointment of 4 Councillors to the Steering Committee (Deputy Speaker Beeai)
   i. Councillor Connor
   ii. Councillor Giraud
   iii. Councillor Jones
   iv. Councillor Faulkner

Motion

a. Motion to appoint the councillors in 14.a to Board of Directors and 14.b to Steering Committee (Councillor Giraud, VP H.Wang) - **APPROVED**

Councillor Giraud motions to appoint the Councillors detailed above.
Seeing no objections, the Motion is approved.

15. Adjournment: **21:30**

APPROVED