Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM
SSMU Office of the Speaker

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
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NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING UPDATES TO THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS & REFERENDA 2026-10-22

Submitted for: 2026-10-22

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-IDYY-MM-DD-SIN (to be assigned by Steering)
Moved by:	Hamza Abu-Alkhair *President*	Current Status:	☐ FOR APPROVAL ☐ APPROVED ☐ POSTPONED ☐ COMMITTED ☐ NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Rhys Jones *Arts Councillor*		

Issue

Following the revisions of the IRERs last year, some clarifications and updates are suggested to provide further clarity for students and candidates.

The addition of an Elections Protocol codifies the rules and practices that have been used for the last few election/referendum cycles.

Background and Rationale

Last year, the IRERs underwent an extensive revision. Having had a year of application, certain gaps were noted in execution of the new regulations. These updates to the IRs are meant to provide further clarity, particularly:

- Updating the nomination and polling period lengths to reflect the way they have been more commonly done
- Codifying that SSMU staff or ISGs can campaign on referendum questions relating to their functions without the Legislative Council having to grant this exception each referendum cycle (as is the current practice)

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- Providing clarifications to the sanctions and investigation process, such as that actions of a campaign committee can be applied to a Candidate and specifying that Candidates cannot contact individuals involved in investigations
- Updating the Sanctions table to include more common examples, updating the list of what actions lead to demerits, and adding consequences (e.g. moratorium on campaigning for 24 hours) to allow for a more gradual escalation of consequences
- Adding specific provisions on use of advocates during an investigation and consequences of disqualification

- The new Elections Protocol codifies the rules and procedures that have been used for the last several election/referendum cycles that otherwise have simply been communicated to candidates during candidate meetings, particularly related to campaigning, debates, and investigations.

Alignment with Mission

These updates will help ensure fair elections at the SSMU and also provide clarity to student members, as well as candidates/campaigns. This aligns with the SSMU's mission of Service, by supporting students in these important governance processes.

Consultations Completed

- Chief Returning Officer
- Governance Affairs Coordinator
- Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary
- President

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The risk of passing the motion, particularly the Protocol, does mean more things are codified, which necessarily reduces potential flexibility.

If the proposed changes do not pass, the existing language would leave significant gaps in our elections and referendum procedures, and leave the Society with a potential for more conflict or adverse interpretation.

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	If this motion does pass, the proposed changes will help the Elections SSMU team run smooth and streamlined elections for its members.
Impact of Decision and Next Steps	As this involves changes to the IRs, this Motion is being presented to the Legislative Council as a Notice of Motion, which will then be presented to Council for adoption at the following meeting. The Motion will then need to be ratified by the Board of Directors, at which point it will immediately come into effect.
Motion or Resolution for Approval	Be it resolved that, the amendments to the *Internal Regulations of Elections & Referenda* as outlined in Appendix A are approved. Be it further resolved that, the *Elections Protocol*, as outlined in Appendix A, be adopted as a Protocol of the Students' Society of McGill University.
Results of the Vote	❒ In favour () ❒ Opposed () ❒ Abstain ()

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Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

Proposed updates to the *Internal Regulations of Elections & Referenda*

Proposed Elections Protocol

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