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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MOTION REGARDING UPDATES TO THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF ELECTIONS & REFERENDA 2026-11-05

Submitted for: 2026-11-05

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2026-11-05-001 (to be assigned by Steering)
Moved by:	Hamza Abu-Alkhair *President*	Current Status:	☐ FOR APPROVAL ☐ **APPROVED** ☐ POSTPONED ☐ COMMITTED ☐ NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Mack Faulkner *Science Representative*		

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. Due to the ever changing nature of elections and the dynamic way candidates campaign, modifications to the IRERs every year are expected. 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)

APPROVED

- 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. In addition, new guidelines that have been introduced to campaigning include:
  - Adding a standard disclaimer for members to contact Elections SSMU or the Elections Complaint Form in cases where violations are observed.
  - Requirement to treat a member's mobile device like a polling station, which means staying a respective distance and ensuring privacy of the vote.
- The Elections protocol also introduces standards and more detailed guidelines when it comes to campaign investigations, introducing a hierarchy of evidence that can ensure future CROs at SSMU are consistent in weighing evidence and making decisions.

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

APPROVED

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. It will also introduce differences in common practice and governing documents.

The changes found within the document may require training for the SSMU Elections Team, however their involvement in the drafting process leads them to a closer familiarity with the new rules and procedures.

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

If approved, the changes as outlined in Appendix A will be added to the Internal Regulations of Elections & Referenda.
Once the period of disallowance passes, the changes will be sent to the Communications and Translation department to publicize the document

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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 ()

APPROVED

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Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

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

Proposed Elections Protocol

APPROVED