

Memorandum

To: SSMU Legislative Council

From: By-Law Review Committee

Prepared by: Janina Grabs, Committee and Senate Secretary General

Date: March 8, 2012

Re: Motion for Revision of Bylaw Book I-7 – Undergraduate University Representation

Context and Rationale

In undertaking the revision of the bylaws on undergraduate university representation, we had several goals. Firstly, it was important to clean up and standardize all stipulations within and across bylaw books. We thus tried to align all requirements both internally and externally in order to clear up any repetitions or contradictions. We also reorganized the order of many Articles to make it flow more logically. Now, Section II concerns Student Senators in particular while part III covers all representatives to University Committees. Sections IV and V then detail procedures and practices of the SSMU Representative to the Board of Governors and of SSMU Senate Caucus, respectively.

Secondly, it was necessary to reflect the changes we made to the manner of student representation on university committees and Senate this year. In reaction to misgivings about the accountability and effectiveness of student representatives over the last years, we included stricter requirements about attendance and feedback from committees. Article 5 specifies the conditions in which unaccountable or unreliable student representatives could have their seat forfeited. In order to create long-lasting institutional memory, all student representatives are now required to submit reports from their committee meetings to the University Affairs Secretary General, who organizes these reports centrally. This new mechanism is reflected in Article 8.2. These changes also contribute to the realization of the recommendations of McGill's Student Consultation & Communication Work Group on "Improving the Quality of Student Representation", to be found under:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/deputyprovost/consultation/recommendations>.

