

Dear Members of the McGill Community,

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this evening's Legislative Council Meeting as I am acting in my official duties as Governor of McGill University. As such, I have requested the SSMU Speaker to read the statement on my behalf.

I would like to take this opportunity to address the communication entitled "SSMU referendum outcome" sent by the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) this afternoon.

On March 21, 2022, in a [referendum](#) that saw overall turnout of 16.5%, the results regarding the SSMU's adoption of "the Palestine Solidarity Policy" passed with 71% majority in favour, and 28.9% in opposition.

The next morning, on March 22, 2022, the Deputy Provost sent me a Notice of Default in regards to our [Memorandum of Agreement \(MoA\)](#) with McGill University, citing that:

"in no way can such a policy be considered to "facilitate communication and interaction between all students from all McGill communities" or to "act in the best interests of [SSMU's] Members as a whole". It will also clearly lead to discrimination based on characteristics such as race, national or ethnic origin, and religion."

As a student union, we require a certain degree of autonomy to effectively carry out our roles, and we fear that the statement made by McGill University severely encroaches on this ability. The fact that Deputy Provost's written communication publicly states his intent to terminate the Memorandum of Agreement is of particular concern.

In regards to the referendum results, we would like to remind you that SSMU's regulations include an [Appeals Process](#) (Section-07, article 4) for decision and conduct regarding elections and referenda, which can be requested by any SSMU Member to the [Judicial Board](#) by submitting a petition. The deadline to submit a Petition regarding the results of the Winter 2022 Referendum is March 26, 2022.

At this time, the SSMU leadership will be reviewing the remedies requested by McGill University and any appropriate action that may be taken **on**