

Re-imagining Student Government at St. Mike's Report

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Following review of the Re-Imagining Student Government Survey created by 9 members of the 2016 SMCSU Council, the following report outlines a new structure and guidelines for the incoming Council.

St. Michael's College Student Union Executive Council will be comprised of the following 9 positions:

President

The President is responsible to the Council for overseeing the implementation of its Constitution, bylaws and policies, as well as promoting and ensuring all USMC rules, regulations and policies are upheld. The President shall serve as the Council's liaison to USMC, UTSU, St. George's Round Table, and all external partners and shall serve as the Council's primary liaison with the USMC Administrative Advisor. The President chairs Council of 9 meetings and shall present an account of its activities to the Council at each meeting. The President shall coordinate the development of an annual plan and programs with the Council. The President is an ex-officio member, with voting rights, of every subsidiary body of the Council. The President signs any contractual agreement on behalf of the Council.

Vice-President

The Vice-President is responsible for ensuring that the Council works effectively and efficiently by maintaining the calendar of events for the Council, assisting the President in preparing meeting agendas and enforcing parliamentary procedure at all meetings. The Vice-President assists the President in overseeing the implementation of Council policies and chairs meetings in the President's absence. The Vice-President signs any contractual agreement on behalf of the Council in the absence of the President. The Vice-President shall chair the Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee annually and coordinate committee assignments in collaboration with the seven other Vice-Presidents.

Vice-President Finance

This Council member is responsible for directing the daily administration of funds, supervising Council expenditures, ensuring that financial records are maintained and preparing a balanced budget and financial statements. The VP Finance receives mentorship in managing the budget from a member of the USMC Finance Department through regularly scheduled meetings to review SMCSU finances. Each quarter, the VP Finance will make a balance sheet of SMCSU finances available on the Council's website. Prior to the quarterly update being posted, the USMC President or Principal will review and approval. The Vice-President Finance is also responsible for preparing the financial review that will be presented at the SMCSU Annual General Meeting.

Vice-President Communications

This Council member is responsible for promoting SMCSU events and updating SMCSU communications, including improving student awareness of union membership benefits. This member is also responsible for creating new communication vehicles and ensuring they are implemented effectively. Other responsibilities include: creating the Information Exchange Group in order to better coordinate the integration of student activities between Residence House Councils, SMC Clubs and academic societies, and USMC administration; and producing the Grammateion.

Vice-President Community Life

This Council role combines the previous Community Life Commissioner and Double Blue Commissioner positions. This Council member is responsible for building community at USMC; and acting as the primary liaison between SMCSU and the St Michael's College Residence Council, Loretto Council, house Councils, and Commuter Dons. This Council member is also responsible for hosting appropriate activities that contribute to the social and cultural life of our students.

Vice-President Academic Affairs (previously the Education & Government Commissioner)

This Council member is responsible for helping to advance and sustain the academic culture and community of USMC from a student perspective. The VP Academic Affairs acts as a liaison between SMCSU and clubs registered at USMC. This Council member will chair the USMC Club Recognition Board, which recognizes clubs at USMC. A main function of this member is working with the USMC Principal on campus lecture events and College Fellow mentorship connections.

Vice-President Arts

This Council member is responsible for promoting the visual, literary, musical and theatrical arts at USMC. This member is also tasked with producing the annual musical.

Vice-President Athletics

This Council member is responsible for organizing athletic and physical fitness activities. This member is tasked with overseeing the participation of USMC intramural teams in the University of Toronto intramural league. This member also facilitates a fall and spring sporting event that encourages participation of students from all levels of fitness and skill.

Vice-President Religious & Community Affairs (RCA)

This Council member is responsible for supporting USMC's distinctive identity as a centre for Catholic intellectual life. The VP RCA shall promote new volunteer and community service opportunities off-campus. The VP RCA is the liaison between the Council and USMC Campus Ministry, the University of Toronto Multifaith Centre, and the student liaison with the Archdiocese of Toronto.

Additional changes to roles and responsibilities of the Council:

- The previous *Officer* roles will be replaced by volunteer officers and volunteer officer committees. These volunteer officers will receive co-curricular recognition, and details of their participation will be provided to the Administrative Advisor. The new Council will

determine guidelines for selection and roles of these committees. Volunteers officers will be required to sign the Code of Conduct that will be developed in the coming months (please see below for more details about the Code). A call for volunteers will be made publicly on SMCSU's website, its office, and at the Clubs Fair in the fall.

- The Council of 9 will meet twice per month. At one meeting per month, invitations shall be extended to SMCSU's committee volunteers and additional USMC stakeholders. These invitees shall hold voice, but no vote. This group of invitees will include: UTSU Representatives, SMRC President or designate, Loretto Council President or designate, 1 Sr. Residence Don, 1 Commuter Don, 1 Loretto Don, and 1 Sponsored Program Course Union representative from each union. The USMC Administrative Advisor will attend all regularly-scheduled meetings of the Council of 9 as an ex-officio non-voting member.
- UTSU Representatives will no longer be voting members of SMCSU.

Elections & Eligibility to run for office:

- Candidates must:
 - have a minimum cGPA of 2.5 to run and hold office;
 - be USMC student who pays SMCSU levied-fees;
 - agree to model good citizenship and to engage in responsible and respectful conduct which reflects positively on USMC students, USMC and the broader community (these will be codified in a Code of Conduct that will be prepared in the coming months); and
 - abide by the rules, regulations and policies of USMC.
- Candidates shall be nominated and campaign for the specific role in which they would like to serve.
- The Election debate will be live-streamed on Facebook.
- Any SMCSU retreat will be held on campus and be supported by USMC administration and campus and community partners.

SMCSU Government Requirements:

- The new SMCSU Council of 9 will adopt a new mission statement that students will be invited to vote on prior to its adoption.

- Each Council member must complete leadership training prior to taking office and complete regularly scheduled training offered throughout their term.
- Future SMCSU Councils will publicly present an annual budget at the start of the Fall term in addition to their report at the AGM in March.
- The new SMCSU Council will submit proposals to petition USMC on ways to add community-building features to Brennan Hall.
- A Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee of SMCSU will be convened to clarify and simplify the SMCSU Constitution and bylaws, align them with SMCSU's authority, and set a higher bar for future amendments. This committee will also be responsible for amending the Constitution to reflect the changes made to SMCSU by the Re-Imagining Committee. This constitutional review will take place after the next election. The Re-Imagining Committee has noted the following items to be included in the Constitution:
 - Adding a provision which gives the USMC Administrative Advisor co-signing authority on expenses that meet a cost threshold of more than \$500, either individually or collectively for any particular matter or item.
 - The inclusion of term limits for Council officers.
 - Inclusion of an eligibility requirement for a position on the Council of 9 which requires students to have held a SMCSU Council of 9 position in the past or been a volunteer on a SMCSU committee. This requirement encourages involvement in the student union throughout a student's academic career, and provides committee volunteers with knowledge of how SMCSU operates before joining the Council.

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