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# CONSTITUTION OF THE MCGILL INTERFAITH STUDENTS' COUNCIL

## ARTICLE I: DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS, AND ABBREVIATIONS

1. **MISC:** McGill Interfaith Student Council.
2. **Groups:** religious groups affiliated to the McGill campus
3. **Independent groups :** religious groups affiliated to the McGill campus
4. **MORSL:** McGill Office for Religious and Spiritual Life
5. **SSMU:** Students' Society of McGill University.

## ARTICLE II: NAME

1. The name of the council shall be the McGill Interfaith Students' Council.

## ARTICLE III: MISSION AND MANDATE

1. MISC is a council, not a SSMU club, which provides a collective voice for all religious groups on McGill campus. The role of MISC is to promote social advocacy and peace making in the religious/faith/spiritual context on campus. MISC is inclusive to all those who are spiritual but are not necessarily affiliated with a particular club.
2. The mandate of MISC is to:
  - a. Promote collaboration and networking between religious student groups at McGill. We identify the need for students to connect with each other, facilitate collaboration and organize interfaith projects.
  - b. Find a common ground by celebrating diversity with unity. We realize that we are not the same, that we have differences, but that we can work with both our similarities and our differences.
  - c. Be a collective voice for religious student groups on campus.

## ARTICLE IV: CODE OF CONDUCT

1. To remain a member of MISC, all members are expected to abide by this code of conduct.
2. MISC shall not engage in unjust discrimination between members, including but not limited to unjust discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, age, ethnic or national origin, sexuality or sexual orientation, mental or physical abilities, language or socioeconomic standing.

## ARTICLE V: MEMBERS AND CONSTITUENTS

1. There are four types of constituents to MISC: chairpersons, representatives, independents, and sit-ins.
2. All chairpersons, representatives, and independents must be registered at the beginning of each semester. The chairpersons are in charge of overseeing registration as explaining in the roles of the chairperson (Article V. Chairpersons.3.a)

3. Time commitment for chairpersons, representatives, and independents is to be present at monthly meetings, emergency meetings when called, and any other time commitment necessary during the planning of certain events.
  - a. the monthly meetings will be decided on the first meeting of each semester

## CHAIRPERSONS

1. 2 chairpersons are appointed during a semester
  - a. one chairperson is elected at the end of winter semester for the next academic year
  - b. the other chairperson is elected at the end of fall semester for the upcoming calendar year (winter and following fall semester)
  - c. the 2 chairperson must be from 2 different groups/affiliations
2. Roles of the chairpersons include:
  - a. Reaching out to student clubs and potential independents at the beginning of each semester and registering council members at the first meeting of the semester.
  - b. Maintaining database of council members, involved clubs, independents, and contact information.
  - c. Holding and setting agenda of meetings
  - d. Chairing meetings
  - e. Acting as liaisons to MORSL
  - f. Acquiring any materials necessary for meeting in preparation for meetings (these may include but not limited to printing out agendas, getting snacks from MORSL)
  - g. Representing MISC to media and external sources
  - h. Managing all forms of media
  - i. Overseeing a smooth transition to the next chairpersons
3. Electing the chairpersons
  - a. The outgoing chairperson oversees the election.
  - b. Two weeks before the last meeting of the semester, representatives and independents may nominate a candidate by referral to the Chairperson in charge.
    - i. the deadline for nominations is 2 days before election day
  - c. Election day must be held before or on the last meeting of the semester
  - d. A simple majority vote of all voting members will elect the Chairperson
    - i. at the discretion of the council, the election may be done online.
    - ii. the procedures of the election are at the discretion of the council.
  - e. Requirements for being nominated and elected chairpersons:
    - i. Must have been a representative, independent, or chairperson for at least 2 semesters.
    - ii. a chairpersons may not be elected more than twice.
4. Voting counts:
  - a. The 2 chairpersons have 1 vote together.
  - b. If the 2 chairpersons are in disagreement and cannot come to decisive vote, the Chairperson vote is nulled.

## REPRESENTATIVES

1. No more than 2 representatives from a group may be registered
2. Roles of the representative:
  - a. At least one registered representative from each group must be present at each meeting.

- b. Being ambassador between MISC and groups. This means keeping the group informed of MISC current activities and bringing back ideas to MISC from the groups. This also means getting groups involved in MISC events.
- 3. Appointment of the representatives is up to the discretion of the individual groups
- 4. Current groups represented at MISC include:
  - a. in 2013-2014: Muslim Student Association (MSA), Newman Catholic Student Society (NCSS), Hillel, Sikh Students Association(SSA), McGill Christian Fellowship (MCF), Ghetto Shul, Youth with a Mission(YWAM), IF?, and Thaqaalayn Muslim Association (TMA).
- 5. Voting counts:
  - a. All representatives have one vote
  - b. A representative must be present at the meeting when voting takes place to vote (unless specified)

## INDEPENDENTS

- 1. Same roles, requirements, and voting counts as representative. The only difference is that the independents are not affiliated with a group on McGill campus
- 2. Current independents represented at MISC include:
  - a. in 2013-2014: Simrin Desai(Hindu), Kam Ganesan(Hindu)

## SIT-INS

- 1. MISC is open and inclusive to all who want to come sit in meetings and express their opinion.
- 2. Have no vote in decisions
- 3. May be asked by Chairpersons to leave a meeting if the Chairpersons deem necessary
- 4. May become an independent by showing interest to chairperson and requesting to being voted in as an independent (will need to register)

## SECRETARY

- 1. A secretary is appointed at the first meeting of the year and will assume the role for the entire academic year
- 2. May be any registered individual
- 3. Responsibilities include:
  - a. Taking minutes during the meeting
  - b. Sending the minutes to all representatives and chairperson after the meetings
  - c. Making special note of decisions made during meeting
- 4. Has no special vote as secretary

## ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

- 1. MISC will convene at least once a month on a predetermined time at the first meeting
- 2. All registered individuals must be present.
- 3. The meeting shall start with a some sort of prayer, meditation, or some faith based discussion
- 4. The first meeting of the semester should entail
  - a. Introduction of council members
  - b. Faith-based discussion to reflect upon the mission of MISC
  - c. Brainstorm for vision of MISC for the semester
- 5. Voting Procedures:
  - a. Chairpersons calls the vote on a decision to:

- i. Proceed with a certain event
    - ii. Vote in a sit in as a independent
  - b. If possible a notification in the agenda must be made to all representatives, independents, and chairpersons that a voting will be done in the coming meeting
  - c. At least 2/3 of all registered members must be present at the meeting for a vote to be called
  - d. A majority vote of all present voting members passes the motion
6. MISC is permitted to determine for itself the procedures governing the monthly meetings.

## AD-HOC MEETINGS

1. An ad-hoc meeting must be called by Chairpersons when deemed necessary at the discretion of MISC
2. Minutes of the ad-hoc meeting must be sent to all members including those not present
3. MISC is permitted to determine for itself the procedures governing the ad-hoc meetings

## SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. Subcommittee meetings are called for the purpose of organizing events
2. They are called by the select individuals that are appointed to organize the event.
3. MISC is permitted to determine for itself the procedures governing the subcommittee meetings

## ARTICLE VII: EVENTS

1. Events should follow and be guided by the Mission Statement
2. A subcommittee is appointed to organize the event
3. Events should benefit the boarder McGill community
4. At least one event per academic year

## ARTICLE VIII: AFFILIATIONS

1. MISC shall be affiliated with MORSL. MISC aims to be recognised as a MORSL *project*, but is otherwise an independent body
  - a. MORSL provides resources and practical aid
  - b. Once a year, one or two MISC delegates attend a MORSL meeting to define relationship between the two bodies, as pertinent to coming semester

## ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

1. A written amendment to the constitution may be presented to the Chairpersons at a monthly meeting
2. The proposed amendment is then presented to all MISC members
3. To ratify the amendment:
  - a. 1/2 of registered members must be present.
  - b. A 2/3 majority vote of all present voting members will pass the amendment
4. At the end of each academic year, MISC review the constitution.

*\*last edited in April 2014*