



Operating Policy - MSU Governance & You Committee

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To increase the diversity and representation of student government at McMaster in terms of, but not limited to, gender, race, sexuality, ability, Indigenous status, and other underrepresented groups;
 - 1.1.1 The working group shall focus on governing bodies of the MSU including the SRA, the Executive Board, and the Board of Directors, while also recognizing the need for and advocating for increased diversity and representation in McMaster governing bodies outside of the MSU;
- 1.2 To assist the Elections Department in ensuring that the electoral process is as open, understandable, and accessible as possible to all McMaster students;
- 1.3 To encourage mentorship between current and potential holders of MSU governing positions;
- 1.4 To work towards a long-term cultural shift of inclusivity in the MSU and greater McMaster community.

2. Members

- 2.1 The Committee will be composed of the following individuals, who shall act as voting members:
 - 2.1.1 A representative from the Women + Gender Equity Network;
 - 2.1.2 A representative from the Pride Community Centre;
 - 2.1.3 A representative from the Cooperative of Indigenous Students Studies Alliance;
 - 2.1.4 A representative from the Advocacy Team;
 - 2.1.5 A representative from Diversity + Equity Network;
 - 2.1.6 A representative from Maccess;
 - 2.1.7 One (1) member of the Board of Directors;
 - 2.1.8 One (1) SRA member;
 - 2.1.9 Minimum (2) MSU (non-SRA) members;
- 2.2 The Committee shall include the following non-voting members:

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- 2.2.1 The Chief or Deputy Returning Officer;
- 2.3 The Committee will consult with various MSU and McMaster bodies, including but not limited to *The Silhouette* and relevant clubs to solicit perspective on media representation, experiences of marginalized groups, etc.;
- 2.4 The Committee Chair shall;
 - 2.4.1 Be elected by the members of the Committee, from within the Committee’s membership, at the first official meeting;
 - 2.4.1.1 Until a Committee Chair is elected, the Chief or Deputy Returning Officer shall act as the Interim Chair and perform all duties associated with the Committee Chair, including the organization and facilitation of the first meeting;
 - 2.4.2 Be responsible for scheduling committee meetings, booking meeting rooms, assigning action items and distributing meeting minutes;
 - 2.4.3 Serve as the central contact person for the committee;
- 2.5 As with all MSU committees while not in closed session, anyone that is interested in being a part of the Committee may do so as non-voting but otherwise fully participating member.

3. Operating Parameters

- 3.1 The Committee shall hold at least two (2) meetings per month.
- 3.2 The Committee shall host a minimum of either one (1): campaign, promotional event, mentorship event, or workshop per academic term;
- 3.3 Partnership with faculty and researchers, e.g. Academic Women’s Success & Mentorship, is strongly encouraged in order to be research and evidence-based;
- 3.4 Success and outcomes will be measured in the context of seeking long-term solutions to the issue of marginalized groups being underrepresented in student governance;
- 3.5 The committee is encouraged to take the shape of the interests of the committee members of that year and create a unique vision based on those interests.