Constitution of the Society of Linguistic Undergraduates of McGill

As amended by Council September 2010

**Title I - The Association**

Article 1 - Name

1. The Association shall be known as the Society of Linguistic Undergraduates at McGill, or by its acronym of SLUM.

Article 2 - Mandates

1. The mandates of SLUM shall be:
	1. To represent all students in the department of Linguistics of McGill University and to promote their welfare and interests, and
	2. To provide activities and services to enhance the educational, cultural, environmental, and social aspects of the lives of its members.
2. SLUM shall be recognised by its members, the Arts Undergraduate Society, the Students' Society of McGill University, the department of Linguistics and the Faculty of Arts as representative of all undergraduate students registered in the department of Linguistics of McGill University.

Article 3 - Membership

1. The membership of SLUM shall include all undergraduate students currently registered at McGill University in any of the major, double major, honours, joint honours, and minor programs of the department of Linguistics.
2. Membership in SLUM confers the right to participate in all activities organised by SLUM as well as the right to attend Council meetings.
3. Non-members of SLUM shall be known as Observers.
	1. Observers may attend a meeting of Council with the assent of one member of the Executive.
	2. Observers shall have full speaking rights at Council but under no circumstances may exercise a vote.
4. Honorary Members:
	1. Shall be undergraduate students currently registered at McGill University or shall be former members of Council.
	2. Shall have attended at least one meeting of Council in the current school year before their elevation to Honorary Member.
	3. Shall be elected by a three-fifths majority vote of Council.
	4. Shall serve on Council as Councilor as defined in Article 4, Section 2.
	5. May not be elected to an Executive position.
	6. May be designated as Mandate Leaders.

**Title II - Organization**

Article 4 - The Council

1. The governing body of SLUM shall be known as the Council and as such shall:
	1. Recognise the supremacy of this Constitution and be bound by it.
	2. Be empowered to make all decisions and take action on behalf of SLUM.
	3. Establish new Mandates of Council.
2. The Council shall consist of:
	1. The members of the Executive, as defined in Article 7, Section 3.
	2. The Councilors, as defined in Article 4, Section 5.
3. Each member of the Council has full speaking rights and may exercise one vote in decisions of Council.
4. Members of SLUM attending their first Council meeting shall be known as Members-at-Large, and shall not exercise any voting rights.
5. Beginning with their second meeting of Council, Members-at-Large shall be known as Councilors and will from then onwards be a part of Council.
	1. Should a Councilor miss more than three meetings in a semester, he or she shall lose their status as Councilor and shall cease to be counted in quorum and voting procedures.
6. For the purposes of membership of Council and quorum, the President shall take attendance at every meeting and maintain a list of Councilors, Members-at-Large, and Observers.

Article 5 - Mandates of Council

1. Mandates of Council shall be struck by Council as it sees fit to carry out the objectives of SLUM in special interest areas.
2. Mandates of Council shall be headed by a single or multiple members of SLUM, who shall be nominated by the Vice-President Events, ratified by Council, and known as Mandate Leaders.
3. The following Mandates of Council shall be enacted at the minimum on an annual basis:
	1. ‘Beer & Pizza Party’ Mandate
	2. ‘SLUMpkin Party’ Mandate
	3. ‘Wine & Cheese with Professors’ Mandate
	4. ‘Fundraiser’ Mandate
	5. ‘Future Week’ Mandate
	6. ‘McCCLU’ Mandate
	7. ‘SLUMwear’ Mandate
	8. ‘SLUM Elections’ Mandate
	9. ‘Constitutional and By-Law Review’ Mandate
		1. The `Constitutional and By-law Review' Mandate shall be enacted on a biennial basis, to carried out in every second school year beginning with the passage of this Constitution.
	10. ‘Language Exchange’ Mandate

Article 6 - Meetings of Council

1. Quorum for a meeting of Council shall be at least four Executives.
2. The Council shall hold regular meetings at least twice a month when classes are in session.
3. Notice of all meetings shall be given to SLUM membership in general and members of Council in particular at least three days in advance.
	1. In pressing and substantial cases, the Executive may decide to hold a meeting of Council as soon as possible.
4. All meetings of Council shall be open to all SLUM members.
5. The Council may, when it deems necessary, conduct closed meetings by excluding, individually or collectively, Observers and/or Members-at-Large in attendance.
	1. Such a decision will require a two-thirds majority vote of Council.

Article 7 - The Executive

1. There shall be a Special Committee of Council called the Executive, which shall govern SLUM between meetings of Council in a manner consistent with policies set out by Council.
2. The Executive shall be a non-hierarchical body, with all members of the Executive equal to each other.
3. The Executive shall be composed of:
	1. The President
	2. The Vice-President External
	3. The Vice-President Events
	4. The Vice-President Communications
	5. The Vice-President Finance
	6. The Vice-President Academic
	7. The Vice-President Fundraising

Article 8 - Powers and Duties of the Executive

1. All members of the Executive shall:
	1. Submit to the greater authority of Council and execute its decisions even if they conflict with the Executive's views on matters within his or her jurisdiction.
	2. Submit any actions taken or decisions made between meetings of Council to be ratified at the following meeting of Council.
	3. Be held accountable for the successes and failures in their Mandates of Council, and be commended or censured by Council as such.
	4. Be responsible for the keeping of adequate records of their actions in order to ensure a smooth transition from one year to the next.
	5. Commit to ensuring an equitable and reasonable distribution of work among the Executive.
	6. Miss no more than three meetings of Council per semester, or two meetings in a row.
		1. Should a member of the Executive miss more than three meetings of Council per semester, Council must take steps to investigate and if necessary replace the Executive member.
2. The President shall:
	1. Co-ordinate and supervise the affairs of SLUM.
	2. Ensure that SLUM members are well served by SLUM by serving as an ombudsperson for students, answering their questions and addressing their complaints.
	3. Call and preside over meetings of Council.
		1. Should she or he be unable to attend a meeting of Council, the President shall designate from the Executive a replacement to call and preside over the meeting.
	4. Maintain a list of members of Council and ensure quorum at meetings of Council.
	5. Monitor progress in all policy and project areas in a consistent but non-intrusive manner, and report any concerns to Council.
	6. Be the official spokesperson for SLUM in a manner consistent with the policies set up Council.
	7. Co-ordinate with other departmental-, faculty-, or university-level student societies to lobby for changes that advance the interests of SLUM members and to organise events of common interest.
3. The Vice-President External shall:
	1. Be responsible for the special interests of graduating students.
	2. Be the representative of SLUM at the Arts Undergraduate Society's Council meetings, or name an alternate delegate to do so in his or her stead.
	3. Address SLUM's questions and concerns about their opportunities and expectations from the Arts Undergraduate Student body.
	4. Report back to the President within 48 hours regarding any issues that may affect SLUM that arose during AUS Council meetings.
	5. Aid SLUM in getting involved with larger projects happening within the Arts Department (e.g. Charity Fair, Freshman Fair, BDA etc.).
	6. Increase communication between SLUM and all members of AUS.
4. The Vice-President Events shall:
	1. Co-ordinate and supervise all SLUM events, that is, all mandates listed in Article 5, Section 3, Clauses a-f.
5. The Vice-President Communications shall:
	1. Ensure communication between Council and the membership of SLUM.
	2. Set up and maintain a SLUM website and a SLUM listserv system.
	3. Search out new opportunities and methods of increasing SLUM's visibility, of encouraging the participation of the membership in SLUM activities, and of promoting the attendance of SLUM members at meetings of Council.
	4. Remain available to aid in the communications and promotions aspects of the various Mandates of Council.
6. The Vice-President Finance shall:
	1. Advise Council on all financial matters of SLUM.
	2. Prepare, present to Council for ratification, and administer SLUM's budget.
	3. Keep proper accounts and records of SLUM's financial dealings.
	4. Recommend to Council a suggested level of preauthorised spending that Mandate Leaders and Executives may make use of in their dealings.
	5. Within the realm of possibility, be consulted before any purchase made on behalf of SLUM by a Mandate Leader or Executive.
	6. Be responsible for all financial powers.
		1. The Vice-President Finance shall ensure the prompt repayment of expenses he or she deems advantageous for the goals of SLUM.
		2. The Vice-President Finance may refuse to refund, either in full or in part, any Mandate Leader's or Executive's expenses if he or she believes them to have been excessive or superfluous and explain this decision at the next meeting of Council.
7. The Vice-President Academic shall:
	1. Be responsible for the tutoring service.
	2. Organize Future Week.
	3. Be responsible for coordinating Exam Stress Relief Brunch before final exams each semester, in cooperation with the Vice-President Events.
	4. Be responsible for coordinating final exam review sessions for applicable Linguistics courses each semester.
8. The Vice-President Fundraising shall:
	1. Be responsible for SLUM fundraising events, including table bookings, ordering necessary goods (i.e. samosas), and publicizing fundraising events.
	2. Be responsible for SLUMwear, including creating the order form, distributing the order form, collecting orders and payment, and delivering the apparel upon its arrival.
	3. Assist the Vice-President Events with completing funding applications for the McGill Canadian Conference for Linguistics Undergraduates (McCCLU).
	4. Work with the Vice-President Finance to coordinate any additional fundraising efforts, including submitting applications for any external funds as deemed necessary by the Council.

**Title III - Elections**

Article 9 - General

1. All members of SLUM shall be eligible to vote in SLUM elections.
2. Elections shall be conducted in accordance with this Constitution and with any applicable SLUM by-laws.
3. Elections are passed by a plurality.
4. Abide by all rules and regulations set forth by the Departmental Elections By-Law.

Article 10 - Eligibility

1. Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution, all members of SLUM shall be eligible to stand for election to the positions of President, Vice-President External, Vice-President Events, Vice-President Communications, Vice-President Finance, and Vice-President Academic.
2. All elected individuals must remain members of SLUM throughout their mandate.
	1. Should an Executive graduate in mid-year, they may only retain their Executive and Mandate Leader positions by applying for Honorary Membership.
	2. Honorary Members serving out their Executive position shall be held to the same standard as all other Executives.
3. No member of SLUM may accept nominations for two Executive positions in the same year.

Article 11 - Procedures

1. Elections for the Executive positions shall be completed no later than the second (2nd) Friday of March of every year.
2. The newly elected members of the Executive shall come into office on May 1 of the year in which they were elected and shall leave office on April 30 of the following calendar year.
3. Within 48 hours of the release of election results, the Vice-President Communications shall contact the Arts Undergraduate Society to provide it with the names and contact information of the new Executive Members.

**Title IV - Removal from Office**

Article 12 - Removal

1. Any member of the Executive and any Mandate Leader may be dismissed from their functions for impropriety, violation of this Constitution and its by-laws, delinquency of duties, or misappropriation of funds.
2. A motion to remove an Executive or Mandate Leader must be presented in writing to the President and signed by at least three members of Council.
	1. Should the motion pertain to the President, it shall be presented in writing to the Vice-President Communications and signed by at least three members of Council.
3. Quorum for a motion to remove must be two-thirds of Council.
4. Passage of a motion to remove an Executive shall require a three-fourths majority vote of present Council members.
5. Passage of a motion to remove a Mandate Leader shall require a simple majority vote of present Council members.

Article 13 - Succession and Replacement

1. Should the office of President become vacant due to resignation, removal, or death, the title of Acting President and the duties of President shall devolve down the Executive list in Article 7, Section 3 to the next available Executive.
	1. The same procedure is to be followed if the office of Acting President should become vacant.
2. Should a Vice-Presidential or Representative position become vacant due to resignation, removal, or death during the Fall semester, a replacement shall be nominated by the President and ratified by a three-fourths majority of Council.
	1. The nominee must be eligible for the vacant position as prescribed by Article 10.
	2. The appointee should preferably already be a Councilor or otherwise familiar with the workings of SLUM.
3. Should a Vice-Presidential or Executive position become vacant due to resignation, removal, or death during the Winter semester, the duties of their position shall be divided among the remaining Executive to be carried out until the regularly scheduled election and accession to office of the following year's Executive.
4. Other than the position of Acting President, no member of SLUM may concurrently hold two Executive positions.

**Title V - The Constitution**

Article 14 - Superseding Clause

1. This Constitution repeals and supersedes all previous constitutions.

Article 15 - By-laws

1. Appended to this Constitution are a set of by-laws which may be adopted by Council as it sees fit, providing that such by-laws conform to the principles embodied in this Constitution.
2. Quorum for a motion to enact, amend, or rescind a by-law must be two-thirds of Council.
3. Passage of a motion to enact, amend, or rescind a by-law shall require a two-thirds majority vote of present Council members.

Article 16 - Amendments

1. Amendments may be proposed piecemeal by individual members of Council or as the product of the biennial constitutional review procedure mandated in Article 5, Section 3, Clause i.
2. Quorum for an amendment to this Constitution shall be three-fourths of Council.
3. This Constitution may only be amended by a three-fourths majority vote of present Council members.

Article 17 - Review

1. This Constitution shall be read by all members of Council before the first Council meeting of every school year.

Article 18 - Citation

1. The Constitution may be cited as the ‘SLUM Constitution’.