**Motion to Select 2020-21 Executive for the Religious Studies Undergraduate Society (RSUS) Independently**

**Whereas,** interest in student government remains low among religious studies students;

**Whereas,** few students have expressed interest in joining RSUS;

**Whereas,** an executive election is likely to have extremely low turnout;

**Whereas,** section 10.1.1 of the RSUS constitution directs RSUS to request to select its executive via interview process if necessary (Appendix A);

**Whereas,** section 8.2.2 of the AUS constitution allows departmental associations to request exemption from holding executive elections (Appendix B);

**Whereas,** RSUS has received an exemption from holding elections for the past three years;

**Be it resolved,** that the RSUS be exempt from holding elections through Elections AUS to select its 2019-2020 executive.

**Be it further resolved,** that the current RSUS executive select the 2019-2020 executive team in accordance with the guidelines outline in the Departmental Electoral Bylaws**.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mo Rajji Courtney, RSUS VP External

**Appendix A - RSUS Constitution**

Article 10 – Elections

10.1 The RSUS must adhere to all AUS laws and by-laws regarding Departmental Elections.

10.1.1 In the event in which elections aren’t the logical mode of selecting the next year’s RSUS members, RSUS must make a formal request in order to hold interviews through the AUS. Applicable reasons for interviews over Departmental Elections include: having a small department, having small voter turnouts in previous elections, not enough money in the budget to justify an election.

10.2 If elections are to take place, they must be held within the last month and a half of the school year.

10.2.1 The position of First Year Rep shall be appointed by the Executive in the Fall of their term following a nomination and interview period. The First Year Rep must be in their first year, U0 or U1 depending on entry level, upon their nomination and will hold the position for the remainder of the academic year.

10.3 All RSUS members are entitled to one vote.

10.4 Advertising for nominations must be posted at least two weeks before the planned election.

10.4.1 Advertising for nominees must begin at least one week before elections.

10.4.2 All nominees must be RSUS members.

10.5 In the event of limited interest in filling executive positions, it becomes the responsibility of the President to ensure that the duties of the vacant office(s) are adequately met. This can be done through conducting an interview period for those interested in vacant positions, or delegating duties to other executive members.

10.5.1 Any member of the executive can, at any time, put forward a motion to hold a by-election for the vacant position.

**Appendix B - AUS Constitution**

Article 8 – Departmental Associations

8.1 Each Department and Interdisciplinary Program in the Faculty of Arts shall be entitled to a Departmental Association.

8.2 Departmental Associations must hold annual elections in accordance with the AUS Departmental Association Electoral By-Laws and their Constitutions.

8.2.1 Any member of a Departmental Association shall be eligible to run for office and vote in that Departmental Association’s election.

8.2.2 Council may grant a waiver of an annual electoral process for a specific departmental association, by a two-thirds vote.