

W2024 Referendum:
Proposed Amendments to the DSU Constitution

N.B.: Changes to text are highlighted in yellow. Changes to punctuation and formatting are not highlighted.

<u>Current DSU Constitution</u>	<u>Proposed Amendments</u>
Effective date June 1, 2022	Approved by Student Council on April 24, 2024
1. DEFINITIONS	1. DEFINITIONS
	1.3. “Accreditation Act” shall mean the Act Respecting the Accreditation and Financing of Student’s Associations (L.R.Q., c. A-3.01)
1.4. “Administrative Director” shall mean an Officer and permanent full-time employee of Union appointed by the Student Council by a majority vote under recommendation of the President who will present a candidate to the Student Council. This Officer also serves as the Corporate Secretary of the Union.	1.4. “Administrative Director” shall mean an Officer and permanent full-time employee of the Union appointed by the Student Council by a majority vote under recommendation of the President who will present a candidate to the Student Council. This Officer also serves as the Corporate Secretary of the Union.
1.12. “Email Addresses” shall mean both the College provided email address and the personal email address provided by the student at the time of registration to the College.	1.13. “Email Address” shall mean the College provided email addresses under the Accreditation Act.
1.15. “Fall Semester” shall mean the period set by the Registrar of Dawson College and approved by the Board of Governors during which educational activities take place.	1.16. “Fall Semester” shall mean the period defined in the Academic Calendar, approved by the Board of Governors, during which educational activities take place.
1.25. “Returning Officers” shall mean the Chief Returning Officer and the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer	1.26. “Returning Officers” shall mean the Chief Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officer.
1.28. “Student Groups” shall mean any student-run organization accredited in accordance with the Union’s Standing Regulations.	1.29. “Student Groups” shall mean any student-run club accredited in accordance with the Union’s Club Standing Regulations.
5. MEMBERSHIP	5. MEMBERSHIP
5.5. Termination of Membership Unless the articles otherwise provide, a membership is terminated when: a. the Member’s resignation or death; b. the Member no longer meets the conditions for membership set out in this Constitution; c. the DSU is dissolved under the Quebec Companies Act. The rights of a Member shall cease to exist on termination of the membership. In the event of termination of membership, there shall be no reimbursement of any dues paid and dues still	5.5. Termination of Membership Unless the articles otherwise provide, a membership is terminated in the case of: a. The Member’s resignation b. The Member’s death; c. The Member no longer meets the conditions for membership set out in this Constitution; d. The DSU is dissolved under the Quebec Companies Act. The rights of a Member shall cease to exist on termination of the membership. In the event of termination of membership, there shall be no

unpaid shall remain payable to the DSU.	reimbursement of any dues paid and dues still unpaid shall remain payable to the DSU.
6. GENERAL ASSEMBLIES (Quebec Companies Act, Article 98)	6. GENERAL ASSEMBLIES (Quebec Companies Act, Article 98)
<p>6.2. Calling the Annual General Assembly The Student Council shall call an Annual General Assembly to be held once in a given Financial Year in the Winter Semester. General Assemblies shall be called by way of a notice on the DSU website and social media accounts and, if the DSU has access to the members email addresses, by electronic mail, at least three (3) days prior to the meeting date. The notice of the meeting shall specify the place, the date, and the time.</p>	<p>6.2. Calling the Annual General Assembly The Student Council shall call an Annual General Assembly to be held once in a given Financial Year in the Winter Semester. General Assemblies shall be called by way of a notice on the DSU website, DSU social media accounts and, the member's email address at least three (3) days prior to the meeting date. The notice of the meeting shall specify the place, the date, and the time.</p>
<p>6.3. Place of Meeting General Assemblies shall be held at the main campus of the College by using technological tools allowing a direct communication between the participants, or with a combination of the 2 methods.</p>	<p>6.3. Place of Meeting General Assemblies shall be held at the main campus of the College, by using technological tools allowing a direct communication between the participants, or with a combination of the 2 methods.</p> <p>If the General Assemblies cannot be held at the main campus of the College, the General Assemblies can be held at an off-campus venue.</p>
<p>6.4. Calling Meeting of a Special General Assembly The Student Council shall call a Special General Assembly if requested to do so by the President, by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the Student Council or by a petition in writing by no fewer than one hundred and fifty (150) Members of the Union from at least four (4) different Academic Sectors with no more than fifty (50) percent being from any one Academic Sector.</p> <p>The President should exercise this power only in the case of an emergency impacting the liability and/or ability of the DSU to function. In case of a Special General Assembly to remove a Councillor from office, the petition in writing shall be supported by no fewer than three (3) percent of the membership who have the right to vote for that Councillor.</p> <p>For a Special General Assembly, the notice shall additionally specify the nature of the business to be transacted, in which case no business that is not germane to the nature specified in the notice shall be transacted. The notice must be sent no less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the date set for the meeting. In the event that no motions are validly</p>	<p>6.4. Calling Meeting of a Special General Assembly The Student Council shall call a Special General Assembly if requested to do so by the President, by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the Student Council or by a petition in writing by no fewer than One-Hundred and Sixty (160) Members of the Union with at least forty (40) signatures from each Academic Sector.</p> <p>The President should exercise this power only in the case of an emergency impacting the liability and/or ability of the DSU to function. In case of a Special General Assembly to remove a Councillor from office, the petition in writing shall be supported by no fewer than three (3) percent of the membership who have the right to vote for that Councillor.</p> <p>For a Special General Assembly, the notice shall additionally specify the nature of the business to be transacted, in which case no business that is not germane to the nature specified in the notice shall be transacted. The notice must be sent no less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the date set for the meeting.</p>

<p>submitted, the General Assembly in question shall be cancelled.</p>	<p>In the event that no motions are validly submitted, the General Assembly in question shall be cancelled.</p>
<p>6.7. Quorum of a Special General Assembly Quorum for a Special General Assembly shall be three hundred (300) Members of the Union. In the case of a Special General Assembly for the removal of an Councillor of the Student Council, the quorum shall be three (3) percent of the student population of the Academic Sector constituency they represent. The Chair and Secretary shall not be counted towards the quorum at the General Assembly, unless they are members.</p> <p>If quorum is not reached at a Special General Assembly, those Members present shall have the power to adjourn the meeting and fix the time of the adjourned meeting. No notice is required for any adjourned meeting. At the continuance of the meeting, the Members may resume dealing with the business for which the original meeting was called.</p>	<p>6.7. Quorum of a Special General Assembly Quorum for a Special General Assembly shall be three (3) percent of the membership of the Union. In the case of a Special General Assembly for the removal of a Councillor of the Student Council, the quorum shall be three (3) percent of the student population of the Academic Sector constituency they represent. The Chair and Secretary shall not be counted towards the quorum at the General Assembly, unless they are members.</p> <p>If quorum is not reached at a Special General Assembly, those Members present shall have the power to adjourn the meeting and fix the time of the adjourned meeting. No notice is required for any adjourned meeting. At the continuance of the meeting, the Members may resume dealing with the business for which the original meeting was called.</p>
<p>7. STUDENT COUNCIL (Quebec Companies Act, Section 83 and Supplementary Letters Patent)</p>	<p>7. STUDENT COUNCIL (Quebec Companies Act, Section 83 and Supplementary Letters Patent)</p>
<p>7.2. Composition (Quebec Companies Act, Article 87) The Student Council shall comprise a total of twenty (20) voting members, six (6) non-voting members and two (2) non-voting advisors. The Student Council composition shall adhere to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Each Academic Sector at Dawson College which shall be represented by at least 1 (one) voting Councillor; b. The total number of Councillors will not surpass sixteen (16). c. The specific composition of the Student Council specified above shall be determined by the Student Council before calling any Election of the Student Council. The composition decided upon shall appropriately reflect the composition of the membership in the different Academic Sectors of the College. d. The President, Vice-President Finance, Vice-President Operations & Services and Vice-President Academic Affairs & Advocacy shall be ex-officio voting members of the Student Council; e. All Executive Officers not included in section (d), shall be non-voting ex-officio members of the Student Council; 	<p>7.2. Composition (Quebec Companies Act, Article 87) The Student Council shall comprise a total of twenty (20) voting members, six (6) non-voting members and two (2) non-voting advisors. The Student Council composition shall adhere to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Each Academic Sector at Dawson College which shall be represented by at least 1 (one) voting Councillor; b. The total number of Councillors will not surpass sixteen (16); c. The specific composition of the Student Council specified above shall be determined by the Student Council before calling any Election of the Student Council. The composition shall be proportional to the number of students in each of the Academic Sectors of the College; d. The President, Vice-President Finance, Vice-President Operations & Services and Vice-President Academic Affairs & Advocacy shall be ex-officio voting members of the Student Council;

<p>f. The Administrative Director shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Student Council with respect to their duties as Secretary of the Union;</p> <p>g. The Chair shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the Student Council in the exercise of their mandate as Chair of the Student Council.</p> <p>h. The Student Council can appoint two (2) advisors to the Student Council, upon recommendation of the President, who are alumni and/or members of the community at large, who shall become non-voting members from the date of their appointment until the end of the financial year.</p>	<p>e. All Executive Officers not included in section (d), shall be non-voting ex-officio members of the Student Council;</p> <p>f. The Administrative Director shall be an ex-officio non-voting member of the Student Council with respect to their duties as Secretary of the Union;</p> <p>g. The Chair shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the Student Council in the exercise of their mandate as Chair of the Student Council;</p> <p>h. The Student Council can appoint two (2) advisors to the Student Council, upon recommendation of the President, who are alumni and/or members of the community at large, who shall become non-voting members from the date of their appointment until the end of the financial year.</p> <p>i.</p>
<p>7.3. Qualifications</p> <p>The following persons shall not be eligible for the office of Student Councillor:</p> <p>a. Persons who have not yet reached the age of majority, upon taking office;</p> <p>b. Persons who are not qualified due to the institution of a regime of protective supervision in their respect or by one of the common causes of extinction of obligations provided for by law, such as if such person is recognized by a court as having lost the ability to reason, if such person becomes bankrupt, suspends their payments or if such person makes arrangements with their creditors;</p> <p>c. Persons who are not members or a student of the Academic Sector for which they seek to represent;</p> <p>d. Persons who hold a Returning Officer position and/or intends on assisting the Returning Officers in their duties during the election cycle;</p> <p>e. Persons who would hold more than one position during their given mandate in one or more of the following: Student Groups, Executive and/or Student Council; and</p> <p>f. Persons who are employed by the Union.</p>	<p>7.3. Qualifications</p> <p>The following persons shall not be eligible for the office of Student Councillor:</p> <p>a. Persons who are not qualified due to the institution of a regime of protective supervision in their respect or by one of the common causes of extinction of obligations provided for by law, such as if such person is recognized by a court as having lost the ability to reason, if such person becomes bankrupt, suspends their payments or if such person makes arrangements with their creditors;</p> <p>b. Persons who are not members or a student of the Academic Sector for which they seek to represent;</p> <p>c. Persons who hold a Returning Officer position and/or intends on assisting the Returning Officers in their duties during the election cycle;</p> <p>d. Persons who would hold more than one position during their given mandate in one or more of the following: Executive of a Student Group and/or any DSU-funded mass media platform, Executive Officer and/or Student Councillor; and</p> <p>e. Persons who are employed by the Union.</p>
<p>7.7. Replacement and Vacancy</p> <p>A Councillor whose term of office ends in accordance with the previous section shall be replaced, from among the Members, by a resolution of the Student Council for a term extending to the expiry of the original term of the Councillor so replaced. Where the members of the Student</p>	<p>7.7. Replacement and Vacancy</p> <p>A Councillor whose term of office ends in accordance with the previous section shall be replaced, from among the Members, by a resolution of the Student Council for a term extending to the expiry of the original term of the Councillor so replaced. Where the members of the</p>

<p>Council number fewer than ten (10) voting individuals following vacancies, the Student Council shall no longer be able to meet or act and the vacancies shall be filled by the means of by-elections.</p>	<p>Student Council number fewer than nine (9) voting individuals following vacancies, the Student Council shall no longer be able to meet or act and the vacancies shall be filled by the means of by-elections.</p>
<p>8. MEETINGS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL</p>	<p>8. MEETINGS OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL</p>
<p>8.1. Calling of the Regular Meetings There shall be no fewer than eight (8) regular meetings of the Student Council per Financial Year. The meeting schedule shall be set by the Student Council at the first meeting of each new financial year.</p> <p>Members who are not Student Council members shall be permitted to attend and speak at meetings of the Student Council , with the exception of In-Camera sessions. However, they shall not have the right to vote and shall not be counted towards the quorum at meetings of the Student Council</p>	<p>8.1. Calling of the Regular Meetings There shall be no fewer than eight (8) regular meetings of the Student Council per Financial Year. The meeting schedule shall be set by the Student Council at the first meeting of each Fall and Winter Semester of each new financial year.</p> <p>Members who are not Student Council members shall be permitted to attend and speak at meetings of the Student Council, with the exception of In-Camera sessions. However, they shall not have the right to vote and shall not be counted towards the quorum at meetings of the Student Council.</p>
<p>9. EXECUTIVE</p>	<p>9. EXECUTIVE</p>
<p>9.2 Eligibility The following persons shall not be eligible for the office of Executive Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Persons that have not yet reached the age of majority, upon taking office; b. Persons who are not qualified to be an Executive Officer due to the institution of a regime of protective supervision in their respect or by one of the common causes of extinction of obligations provided for by law, such as if such Officer is recognised by a court as having lost the ability to reason, if such Officer becomes bankrupt, suspends their payments or if such Officer makes arrangements with its creditors; c. Persons who hold a Returning Officer position and/or intends on assisting the Returning Officers in their duties during the election cycle; d. Persons who would hold more than one position during their given mandate in one or more of the following: Student groups, e. Executive, and/or Student Council; f. Persons who are employed by the Union; g. Persons who are no longer Members of the DSU, unless membership is granted to them according to Article 5.3 of the Constitution 	<p>9.2 Eligibility The following persons shall not be eligible for the office of Executive Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Persons that have not yet reached the age of majority, upon taking office are not eligible to be signing officers (President and Vice-President Finance); b. Persons who are not qualified to be an Executive Officer due to the institution of a regime of protective supervision in their respect or by one of the common causes of extinction of obligations provided for by law, such as if such Officer is recognised by a court as having lost the ability to reason, if such Officer becomes bankrupt, suspends their payments or if such Officer makes arrangements with its creditors; c. Persons who hold a Returning Officer position and/or intends on assisting the Returning Officers in their duties during the election cycle; d. Persons who would hold more than one position during their given mandate in one or more of the following: Executive of a Student Group and/or any DSU-funded student mass media platform, Executive, and/or Student Council; e. Persons who are employed by the Union;

	<p>f. Persons who are no longer Members of the DSU, unless membership is granted to them according to Article 5.3 of the Constitution.</p>
<p>9.7. Replacement and Vacancy An Officer whose term of office ends in accordance with the previous section shall be replaced pursuant to an Election for a term extending to the expiry of the original term of the Officer so replaced.</p> <p>Should the office of the President become vacant, the Student Council shall appoint, within five (5) days of the vacancy, from the Executive, an Interim-President to handle the tasks and duties of the President until a new President is elected and takes office following an election held in accordance with this Article.</p> <p>Should the vacancy occur after the beginning of classes of the Winter semester, the Student Council may decide to forego said Election, and the office shall remain vacant.</p>	<p>9.7. Replacement and Vacancy An Officer whose term of office ends in accordance with the previous section shall be replaced pursuant to an Election for a term extending to the expiry of the original term of the Officer so replaced.</p> <p>Should the office of an Executive Officer become vacant, the Student Council shall appoint, within ten (10) days of the vacancy, from the Executive, an Interim-Executive Officer to handle the tasks and duties of the Executive Officer until a new Executive Officer is elected and takes office following an election held in accordance with this Article.</p> <p>Should the office of the President become vacant, the Vice-President Internal Affairs & Communications shall assume the role of Interim-President and handle the power and duties of the office of the President. In the event that the President and Vice-President Internal Affairs & Communications positions are both vacant, the Student Council shall appoint, from the Executive Officers, an Interim-President, and an Interim-Vice President Internal Affairs & Communications.</p> <p>Should the vacancy occur after the end of classes of the Fall semester, the Student Council may decide to forego said Election, and appoint a person or persons to fulfil the task and duties of the Executive Officer, and the office(s) shall remain vacant.</p>
<p>9.11. Vice-President Internal Affairs & Communications The Vice-President Internal Affairs & Communications shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. coordinate the Union’s relations with faculty, school, and other student associations, and to facilitate communication among these groups; b. oversee the production of the Union’s publications; c. manage the Union’s communications and student engagement strategy; d. oversee the management of the Union’s business operations; e. represent the Members on College’s bodies in charge of space and planning; 	<p>9.11. Vice-President Internal Affairs & Communications The Vice-President Internal Affairs & Communications shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assume the role of Interim-President in the event the office of President becomes vacant; b. Coordinate the Union’s relations with faculty, support staff, professionals, their sectoral unions, and College departments; c. Facilitate communication among the Union and faculty, support staff, professionals, their sectoral unions, and College departments d. Coordinate and plan student orientation-related activities and events;

<p>f. develop and manage budget designated for Internal Affairs & Communications; g. engage in consultation with the Union's Members</p>	<p>e. Oversee the production of the Union's publications; f. Manage and execute of the Union's branding guidelines; g. Coordinate the Union's media and public relations; h. Coordinate the Union's volunteer network and recruitment; i. Engage in consultation with the Union's Members; j. Represent the Members on College's bodies in charge of communications; k. Develop and manage budget designated for Internal Affairs & Communications.</p>
<p>9.17 Vice-President Operations & Services The Vice-President Academic Affairs & Advocacy shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. serve as ex-officio voting member of the Student Council; b. manage the use of the Union's space; c. coordinate the improvement efforts in regards to the Union's space; d. oversee the management of the Union's business operations; e. represent the Members on College's bodies in charge of space and operational planning; f. develop and manage the budget designated for Operations & Services; g. operationalize and manage all DSU student-run and staff-run services that are not Student Groups 	<p>9.17 Vice-President Operations & Services The Vice-President Operations & Services shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Serve as ex-officio voting member of the Student Council; b. Manage the use and improvements of the Union's space; c. Oversee the management of the Union's operations and related processes; d. Oversee the use and tracking of the Union's tangible assets; e. Represent the Members on College's bodies in charge of space and operational planning; f. Develop and manage the budget designated for Operations & Services g. Manage all DSU student-run and staff-run services that are not Student Groups.
<p>10. ELECTIONS</p>	<p>10. ELECTIONS</p>
<p>10.3 Chief Returning Officer The Chief Returning Officer shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide to the Student Council and President an Elections and/or Referenda Report no later than ten (10) days following the announcement of results; b. Set timelines of voting events in accordance with Standing Regulations on Elections and Referenda and Electoral Budget; c. Oversee and manage the voting process of Elections and Referenda; d. Manage the elections budget; e. Coordinate all activities relating to elections; 	<p>10.3 Chief Returning Officer The Chief Returning Officer shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide to the Student Council and President an Elections and/or Referenda Report no later than ten (10) days following the announcement of results; b. Set timelines of voting events in accordance with Standing Regulations on Elections and Referenda and Electoral Budget Oversee and manage the voting process of Elections and Referenda; c. Manage the elections budget; d. Coordinate all activities relating to elections;

<p>f. Appoint and manage elections staff to assist in the organization, promotion and management of voting events;</p> <p>g. Has full authority over the Elections and Referenda;</p> <p>h. Oversee the nomination process for elections;</p> <p>i. Call By-Elections of the Student Council if there are more than 10 (10) voting positions vacant.</p>	<p>d. Appoint and manage elections staff to assist in the organization, promotion, and management of voting events;</p> <p>e. Has full authority over the Elections and Referenda;</p> <p>f. Oversee the nomination process for elections;</p> <p>g. Call By-Elections of the Student Council if there are more than nine (9) voting positions vacant.</p>
<p>13. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES</p>	<p>13. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES</p>
<p>13.3. Calling of the Regular Meetings There shall be no fewer than eight (8) regular meetings of the Student Representative Caucus per financial year. The meeting schedule shall be set by the Student Caucus Chair at the first meeting of each new financial year.</p>	<p>13.3. Calling of the Regular Meetings There shall be no fewer than two (2) regular meetings of the Student Representative Caucus per financial year. The meeting schedule shall be set by the Student Caucus Chair at the first meeting of each new financial year.</p>
<p>13.8. Resignation A Student Representative may resign from office at any time by forwarding a letter of resignation to the Vice-President Academic Affairs & Advocacy. This can be by way of electronic mail, courier or by registered mail. The resignation shall become effective on the date when the letter of resignation is sent to the Union or on such other date as may be specified in the letter.</p>	<p>13.8. Resignation Student Representative may resign from office at any time by forwarding a letter of resignation to the Vice-President Academic Affairs & Advocacy and the Administrative Director. This can be by way of electronic mail, courier or by registered mail. The resignation shall become effective on the date when the letter of resignation is sent to the Union or on such other date as may be specified in the letter.</p>
<p>17. BOOKS & RECORDS</p>	<p>17. BOOKS & RECORDS</p>
<p>17.3. Access to Information The following documents shall be made publicly available to members on the Union’s website and/or platform accessible to the membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Constitution, Standing Regulations, Policies and Positions b. Agreements of public interest entered into with Dawson College c. Agenda and Minutes of the meetings of the Student Council and its Committees d. Agenda and Minutes of the General Assemblies e. All Official Reports developed by the Union f. Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report g. Annual budgets and their revisions h. All other documents deemed of public importance by the Student Council 	<p>17.3. Access to Information The following documents shall be made publicly available to members on the Union’s website and/or platform accessible to the membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Constitution, Standing Regulations, Policies and Positions; b. Agreements of public interest entered into with Dawson College; c. Agenda and Minutes of the open meetings of the Student Council and its Committees; d. Agenda and Minutes of the General Assemblies; e. All Official Reports developed by the Union; f. Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report; g. Annual budgets and their revisions; h. All other documents deemed of public importance by the Student Council.

<p>18. STANDING REGULATIONS AND POSITIONS</p>	<p>18. STANDING REGULATIONS AND POSITIONS</p>
<p>18.3. Adoption, Amendment and Repealing of Positions Positions may be adopted, amended or repealed at a General Assembly by majority vote. In order for positions to be presented at a General Assembly, they must be first approved by the Student Council by a simple majority vote. Amendments or repealing of positions must also be first approved by the Student Council by a simple majority vote and then presented to the General Assembly for adoption by majority vote.</p> <p>All positions of the Union are valid for a period of no more than the end of the fiscal year three (3) years after they were adopted. After such expiry, policies may be renewed at a General Assembly or will otherwise cease to have effect.</p>	<p>18.3. Adoption, Amendment and Repealing of Positions Positions may be adopted, amended or repealed at a General Assembly by majority vote. In order for positions to be presented at a General Assembly, they must be first approved by the Student Council by a simple majority vote. Amendments or repealing of positions must also be first approved by the Student Council by a simple majority vote and then presented to the General Assembly for adoption by majority vote.</p> <p>All positions of the Union are valid for a period of no more than the end of the fiscal year three (3) years after they were adopted. After such expiry, positions may be renewed at a General Assembly or will otherwise cease to have effect.</p>