

1. SMSS ACCOUNTABILITY POLICY & PROTOCOL

I. Purpose

As outlined in the SMSS Constitution, the SMSS officers are held to a certain standard due to their position. This policy outlines the expected standard as well as consequences for officers who fail to uphold that standard.

II. Policy

1. All Officers will uphold the terms laid out in the SMSS Constitution, Policy Package, and Working Documents (the “SMSS Governing Documents”).
 - 1.1. In accordance with the Governing Documents, any SMSS member may bring formal (written) charges against an Officer they allege are not in accordance with the terms of their position. All such charges shall be addressed by email to the VP Internals (or SMSS President should the VP Internal Saskatoon or VP Internal Regina be the offending Officer) who shall bring it before the SMSS Executive Council.
2. The types of allegations that may be made against Officers are as follows:
 - 2.1. Failure to meet the duties/responsibilities assigned to them by virtue of their SMSS position.
 - 2.2. Failure to follow the governance rules outlined in the SMSS Governing Documents.
 - 2.3. Allegations of Professional Misconduct.
 - 2.4. Failure to provide turnover documentation.
 - 2.5. Failure to attend required meetings
 - 2.6. These allegations may be made against Officers at any time before the beginning of the subsequent academic year (i.e. an allegation must be received by the VP Internals [or SMSS President should the VP Internal Saskatoon or VP Internal Regina be the offending Officer] prior to date of class resumption in August of the following school year).
3. All outgoing Officers shall produce turnover documents that detail how they undertook their role in their respective year (events, successes, shortcomings, troubleshooting, tips, etc.). These documents will be presented to the VP Communications by email no later than two (2) weeks after the election of an incoming Officer. The VP Communications shall upload a copy of those documents to the SMSS Google Drive and then will ensure each respective incoming Officer is in possession of the outgoing officer’s turnover documents no more than three (3) weeks after the election of the respective incoming Officer.
4. Deviation in Meeting procedure (i.e. non-strict adherence to Robert’s Rules) shall be met with consequences only in an instance when a voting member of the respective meeting makes a formal (written) complaint. Such a complaint shall be addressed to the VP Internals (or SMSS President should the VP Internal Saskatoon or VP Internal Regina be the offending Officer) who shall bring it before the SMSS Executive Council. The Executive shall decide on the consequences by resolution of a simple majority vote. Actions to take regarding the decision shall be carried out by the VP Internals (or SMSS President should the VP Internal Saskatoon or VP Internal Regina be the offending Officer) on behalf of the Executive.
 - 4.1. Recurrent deviations from meeting protocol that are not met with consequences are recommended to be discussed at a General Meeting to better inform the ongoing good governance of the SMSS. In other words, they should be discussed as possible governance amendments.

5. The SMSS Executive and SMSS Division level decisions may be overruled by a two-thirds majority vote of council. This ensures the accountability of the Executive and Divisions to the SMSS Council.
6. In accordance with the Working Documents, the SMSS President (or SMSS Vice-Presidents External in specific instances) shall speak for the SMSS to all external organizations and be accountable for that representation. The exceptions to this are as follows:
 - 6.1. When a representative is to pass a resolution on behalf of the student body onto their external organization (e.g. bringing forward a resolution at SMA) it will be required that they present the resolution for majority approval of the SMSS Council beforehand.
 - 6.1.1. Should time not permit, the resolution will be presented to both their Division and the executive for majority approval.
 - 6.2. A representative is permitted to speak on behalf of the SMSS with external organizations (e.g. thanking external entities on behalf of the SMSS) provided the opinion be presented to both their division chair and president for approval beforehand.
 - 6.3. An officer who speaks out of turn on behalf of the SMSS may face consequences under this policy (see above points 2.1 and 2.2)

III. Governance/Protocol

The allegations of impropriety shall be carried out as follows.

1. Failure to meet the duties/responsibilities assigned to them by virtue of their SMSS position.
 - 1.1. The VP Internals (or SMSS President should the VP Internal Saskatoon or VP Internal Regina be the offending Officer) shall receive an email alleging an Officer is failing to meet their duties/responsibilities. This may include failure to complete actionable items assigned to the Officer at any SMSS meeting.
 - 1.2. The VP Internals (or SMSS President should the VP Internal Saskatoon or VP Internal Regina be the offending Officer) shall contact the person making the allegation(s) and request the following details. The VP Internals shall ensure the allegor knows they have one week (7 days) to provide answers in writing or their allegation shall not proceed. Details include:
 - 1.2.1. Which officer the complaint is being made against (if not already known).
 - 1.2.2. Details of the alleged charges.
 - 1.2.3. Contacts who can provide supportive evidence of the allegation(s).
 - 1.2.4. Any documentation relevant to the allegation(s).
 - 1.3. Once the VP Internals have received written answers from the allegor, they shall contact the Officer in question and request the following information:
 - 1.3.1. The Officer's perspective on the alleged charges.
 - 1.3.2. Contacts who can provide supportive evidence for the Officer's claims.
 - 1.3.3. Any documentation relevant to the allegation(s).
 - 1.3.4. NOTE: The VP Internals shall not release the name of the allegor or their support contacts to the Officer in question at this time.
 - 1.4. The VP Internals shall ensure the Officer knows they have one week (7 days) to provide answers in writing or they will forfeit their chance to defend themselves against the allegation(s).

- 1.5. The VP Internals shall bring all the collected evidence before the SMSS Executive. The Executive shall do one or more of the following actions (the “consequences”). This will be decided by simple majority resolution in an un-minuted, closed session (in the case that either the Officer in question or the allegor is a member of the Executive, they shall not be allowed to vote or observe the discussions regarding the vote). Potential actions include:
 - 1.5.1. There is insufficient evidence to indicate the Officer failed to carry out their duties/responsibilities. The Officer shall continue in their role.
 - 1.5.2. There is not enough evidence presented and more is requested from the allegation or Officer. The party asked to provide more evidence is given a week (7 days) to provide it and, regardless of whether the evidence requested is provided, the Executive shall re-consider the allegation at that time.
 - 1.5.3. Evidence is given to suggest the Officer has not fulfilled their assigned duties and is required to create a written action plan that will be reviewed by the Officer, their Division Chair, the VP Internals (Saskatoon Sr. and Jr.; Regina Sr. and Jr.), and the SMSS President. Should the Officer fail to meet the objectives of the action plan, they shall be terminated and barred from holding another SMSS position.
 - 1.5.4. There is evidence to warrant the immediate termination of the officer and bar them from holding another SMSS position. NOTE: This decision can only be passed by a successful two-thirds majority vote.
- 1.6. Following a resolution, the VP Internals shall write to both the allegor and the Officer regarding the decision. NOTE: The VP Internals are still not required to give the name of the allegor at this time.
2. Failure to follow the governance rules outlined in the SMSS Governing Documents.
 - 2.1. These allegations shall be handled in the same way as allegations of failure to meet responsibilities/duties allegations (see directly above).
3. Allegations of Professional Misconduct.
 - 3.1. Allegations of this type may be made when the allegor believes an Officer has exhibited unprofessional behavior according to the specifications of professional conduct (as defined by the University of Saskatchewan, College of Medicine’s Professionalism Policy).
 - 3.2. These allegations shall be handled in the same way as allegations of failure to meet responsibilities/duties allegations (see directly above) with the following addition to the types of resolutions that the Executive can decide:
 - 3.2.1. If the unprofessional behaviour is deemed to be an issue beyond the SMSS, an Informal or Formal Breach of Professionalism will be submitted to the College of Medicine by the SMSS President. Further actions will be carried out outside of the control of the SMSS, following the Professionalism Policy of the College of Medicine. This can occur at any point during the process and may be carried out at the same time the issue is being dealt with by the SMSS.
4. Failure to provide turnover documentation.
 - 4.1. This type of allegation is brought forward by the VP Internals or VP Communications to the SMSS Executive when an outgoing SMSS Officer has failed to provide their Turnover Documents (in whole or part) by the time limit outlined above. The Executive shall do one or more of the following actions (the “consequences”). This will be decided by simple majority resolution in an un-minuted, closed session (in the case that the Officer in question

is a member of the Executive, they shall not be allowed to vote or observe the discussions regarding the vote):

- 4.1.1. The outgoing Officer cannot claim themselves to have been a holder of the position they are vacating, nor present it on their Resume/CV.
- 4.1.2. The outgoing Officer will not be eligible to run for any position in future SMSS elections.
- 4.2. Any decision may be rescinded by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive should the Officer in question provide the Turnover Documents past the deadline outlined above.
 - 4.2.1. An outgoing Officer may challenge the decision of the Executive at only the very next Council meeting. The decision of the Executive may be overturned by a simple majority vote.
5. Failure to attend required meetings.
 - 5.1. Should any SMSS Officer be labeled as “Absent” (i.e. absence without prior documentation or regrets; “unexcused” absences) at any two (2) meetings outlined as within the scope of their role (in the “Working Documents”) they shall receive an email from the VP Internals (or SMSS President, should the VP Internal Saskatoon or VP Internal Regina be the subject of this disciplinary action). The email shall outline that, should the Officer be “Absent” again, they will be terminated from their position, unable to claim they held the position on their Resume/CV, and are barred from holding another SMSS position. All Officers are subject to this disciplinary action excluding third and fourth year Class Representatives, the Past SMSS President, Past VP Internal Regina, and Past VP Internal Saskatoon.
6. This Policy shall be reviewed by the SMSS Executive Council every three years and may be amended by a majority resolution of the SMSS Council. The last review occurred in 2023.

IV. Contact Information

Primary Contact:

SMSS VP Internals

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vpregina.smss@gmail.com

Secondary Contact:

SMSS President

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Secondary Contact:

SMSS VP Communications

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APPENDIX

<https://medicine.usask.ca/policies/professionalism-standard-operating-procedure.php>