

To the Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR):

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the proposed changes to the CAMSR Terms of Reference. Please find our feedback to the proposed changes and our recommendations below.

Response to Proposed Changes to the CAMSR Terms of Reference

We find issue with two of the proposed changes to the CAMSR Terms of Reference.

First, we believe that changing the frequency of the review of the Terms of Reference (ToR) should not be extended from three to five years. This change would significantly limit student participation and involvement in university affairs because this proposed time interval is longer than the standard length of an undergraduate program. The importance accorded by the wider McGill community to the issues dealt with by CAMSR justify the higher frequency of ToR reviews compared with the Board's other committees.

Second, the proposed change to the CAMSR Terms of Reference that mandate that the committee "refrain from using the University's resources to advance social or political causes" is deeply problematic. Indeed, this language opens the door to arbitrary definitions of social and political causes, which could be used to suppress open and constructive academic debate at McGill University. Specifically, this change would create contradictions within CAMSR's mandate. An illustration of such a contradiction is the fact that McGill divested from the tobacco industry, which arose from a clear concern among Committee members for *social* well-being.

Accountability Recommendation

We ask that CAMSR's meeting minutes, including testimonies of individuals consulted, be made publicly available, as is the case with Board of Governors' meetings. This action would foster transparency and trust from the wider McGill community in the work being done by the committee.

CAMSR Composition Recommendations

We recommend that Section 1 of the CAMSR Terms of Reference be expanded to specify that at least one of the members of the Committee have a formal professional or educational background in ethics or socially responsible investment. This measure would provide a valuable and constructive perspective that is necessary for the fulfillment of CAMSR's mandate.

We also recommend that the Committee does not include members who have current or previous professional relationships with companies that are under examination by the Committee. Alternatively, a member who may have such a connection should be asked to abstain from CAMSR votes that concern their affiliated industries.

Recommendations Regarding Definitions Used by the Committee

Currently, there is no formal distinction between social injury and grave social injury in the CAMSR Terms of Reference. Given that determining the exact level of social injury is central to CAMSR's decision making process, it is imperative that the difference between social injury and grave social injury be clearly defined in the Terms of Reference.

We are open to further discussing any of the above recommendations and are committed to maintaining an open dialogue throughout this revision process and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Divest McGill