Motion BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Interfaith Student’s Working Group be struck with terms of reference as attached.

The mission of this working group is to contribute to the development of a student culture that affirms the value of interfaith engagement in student life. It aims to do so by cultivating a campus environment characterized by sensitive, respectful and honest engagement among the diverse spiritual and religious traditions represented on campus, for the benefit of all UM community members.

**Composition:**

- Chair
- UMSU VPSL\(^1\) (non-voting)
- Representation from diverse UMSU faith-based student groups.
- UMSU member representatives from identifying communities/religious groups without a student club.
- UM’s Spiritual Care Coordinator
- UM Chaplains

**Chair of the Committee**

Chair of the committee shall be appointed by the members of the working group by majority vote. The Chair shall be responsible for chairing meetings, ensuring they move forward efficiently, and for drafting agendas and meeting minutes. Chairs will hold office for an academic calendar year, at which point a new student member will take on the responsibility.

\(^1\) The role of VP Student Life is to act in a liaison capacity between working group and UMSU board/executive. Such role could include the provision of advice and input from a Student Union representative standpoint.
Membership shall be at the discretion of the committee.

**Terms of Office**

Membership will consist of one full academic year, at minimum, but allows for continued service.

**Responsibilities:**

Student membership is called to:

1) Advise and plan activities related to the promotion of diverse spiritual traditions and expressions, for the sake of fostering greater understanding, sensitivity and engagement among all UM community members.

2) Offer recommendations on how to encourage the promotion of spiritual pluralism on campus.

3) Seek ways to collaborate and support the diverse activities led by respective UMSU faith-based student groups.

4) Be attentive to students’ concerns, opinions, and wishes concerning spiritual health, and relay to the committee as appropriate.

5) Display solidarity among UM community members who experience religious and spiritual discrimination.

6) Contribute to the development of a spiritual health strategy for the University, in collaboration with the Spiritual Care coordinator.

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2 Spiritual pluralism does not involve a relativizing of all religious beliefs and spiritual traditions but rather, a social and civic commitment to work side-by-side for the common good. Victor Kazanjian defines religious pluralism in contrast to tolerance. While tolerance seeks to limit the potential fallout of diversity by enforcing rigid boundaries of acceptable behaviour, it stops short at behaviour management and accommodation. Tolerance allows for ignorance and isolation to flourish, culminating in hatred and discrimination. For Kazanjian, on the other hand, plurality is the active pursuit of deepening civic commitment and the building of community. It involves the active coming together of people with marked differences, addressing the conflict that naturally arises, which in turn results in the creation of a common life. Victor Kazanjian, interview by Leslie M. Schwartz in “Beyond Tolerance… An Interview on Religious Pluralism with Victor Kazanjian,” Spirituality in Higher Education Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 4 (August 2007): 2
7) Provide discernment and feedback on initiatives proposed by the Spiritual Care coordinator.

8) Organize an Interfaith and Spiritual Emphasis week on UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, February 1-7.

9) Deliver suggestions and recommendations to UMSU and the University Board.

10) Report to UMSU’s Board of Directors with regular updates.

11) Should the working group require funding to pursue any initiatives, funds must be approved by the finance committee, or UMSU’s Board of Directors, depending on the amount in accordance with the UMSU governing documents Meeting Regularity.

Meetings
Meetings will be convened once a month for the fall and winter and summer semesters.

Quorum
Quorum shall be at least half of the committee’s membership, and subject to lesser ratio as committee grows.

Governance
Recommendations and decisions of the committee, to the extent decisions may be rendered, shall be made by consensus.

Record – Keeping of Decisions
The chair shall ensure that a record of all decisions and recommendations of the membership is maintained. The chair may appoint a recording secretary as appropriate.