

On Thursday, October 1st, 2026, Alessandro Limanni, the Vice President (VP), submitted a request for a Special Meeting, concerning the **Presentation of Grounds for Dismissal** for Julia Zhu, the VP of Mental Health (VPMH).

The SMCSU Constitution states that a Special Meeting must be held within 72 hours of the receipt of its request and approval by 2/3rds of the Council, which would have placed the Special Meeting and the discussion of possible Dismissal of a Councillor on the weekend. To accommodate the different Availabilities of the Councillors, another motion was made to hold the Special Meeting on October 6th, Tuesday, 5-7pm, in place of the regular SMCSU Meeting.

The Special Meeting occurred on October 6th, Tuesday after agreement that the two motions passed. The presented grounds placing the VPMH's actions into question implicated violating the following Constitutional Articles:

1. Article IV Section 2.1d

- "Agree to model good citizenship and to engage in responsible and respectful conduct that reflects positively on USMC, USMC students, and the broader UofT and local communities."

2. Article VII Section 2.2b

- "Failure to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all Members."

3. Article VII Section 2.2a

- "Failure to comply with constitutional responsibilities as outlined in Article II, Article IV, and Article V, of their contract."

The Councillors who were unimplicated in the Presentation of the Grounds were not informed of the specific instances of the VPMH's actions being called into question prior to the meeting in order to prevent preconceived biases from forming. However, the VPMH was informed of the specific instances cited against them by the VP prior to the meeting to allow for them to prepare for the discussion, and for fair forum to be held.

To ensure management of a fair discussion and neutrality, Emily VanBerkum-Farahat, the USMC Director of Residence Operations was chosen to act as Chair of the discussion proceedings, and was approved via Council Vote. She was also chosen as she had the least prior working experience with either of the two Councillors implicated in the Presentation of the Grounds for Dismissal.

To protect the privacy of people involved, and to allow all Councillors to speak honestly without scrutiny, the Council motioned and agreed to go In-Camera, which protects dialogue by keeping the discussion and minutes private, but maintains the Publishing of Motions and the tally with which they passed or failed.

The VP and VPMH each had 5 minutes to present their thoughts and arguments on the matter of discussion, followed by their temporary leave to allow for the remaining 8 Councillors to discuss their individual thoughts and perspectives on the presented grounds for Dismissal. The discussion that followed lasted for over an hour, succeeded by the **Blind Vote** of all 8 unimplicated Councillors.

Afterwards, the VP and VPMH were called back in to receive the result of the Motion along with the unimplicated Councillors. **The Motion for Dismissal of Julia Zhu from the Council of 2026-2027 [PASSED] 7/8.** In accordance with the Constitution, further election information to fill in the role of VP Mental Health will be released as soon as available.

With this news, **SMCSU asks the Members of the Union to maintain respect and dignity towards all Members of our community**, especially those involved in this special meeting.