



**STUDENTS' SOCIETY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY / ASSOCIATION
ÉTUDIANTE DE L'UNIVERSITÉ MCGILL
Directors' Meeting**

MINUTES of a meeting of the directors of **Students' Society of McGill University / Association Étudiante de l'Université McGill** (the "Corporation"), held at 3480 McTavish, SSMU Boardroom, Montréal, Québec at 6:00 PM on the 24th day of May 2016 .

There were present:

Kareem Ibrahim, President
Zachariah Houston, Vice President (Finance and Operations)
Kimber Bialik, Vice President (Clubs & Services)
Lexi Michaud, Director
Kahli Douglas, Director
Sean Taylor, Director
Dushan Tripp, Director
Adam Templer, Director
Erin Sobat, Director

And also:

Ryan Hughes, General Manager (non-voting)
Ben Ger, Incoming President (non-voting)
Elaine Patterson, Incoming Vice-President Student Life (non-voting)
Sacha Magder, Incoming Vice-President Operations (non-voting)

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:18 PM by the Speaker.

QUORUM

The Chairman declared that the directors present constituted the quorum required for the holding of the meeting and so the meeting was validly constituted.

WAIVER OF NOTICE

A waiver of notice, signed by all the directors of the Corporation, was produced and ordered inserted in the minute book immediately preceding the entry of the minutes of the present meeting.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED to adopt the agenda as submitted.



MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the minutes and documents produced during the Board of Directors' meeting on 11th day of May 2016 at 7:00 PM.

1.0 New Business

1.1 Approval of the Peer Support Centre renovation project

VP CS: There are two docs, one is to let you know what we are actually talking about. The other one is the actual motion. The renovation of the project will happen during the summer. McGill is really slow on things, but the goal is to finish it by September. All the groups that need to have their offices relocated will definitely be done by September. We are waiting for them until tomorrow to finalize everything. **But I would assume that it won't be an issue because they would just operate normally** until the renovation project is done. The proposal report just summarized of what this renovation project would be. **Basically it's rooms 410, 411, and 412, we want a reception area located in the middle that branch out to two separate support rooms. They have separate exits, so people who want access to our services wouldn't need to go back and see more people on the lounge and they could just leave.** What that entails is punching some holes on the wall between 410 and 411 and the wall between 411 and 412 to put doors in there just to connect the all three rooms. 411 will be the reception. There would be a desk and some couches for seating there. 410 and 412 will be the actual support room and staffed by PSC volunteers. For funding of this project, which is actually coming to the board, **there are just some mysterious money that used to go to Queer McGill. There's a pool of money in the student life fund that formerly went to the Queer McGill undergraduate fund and there was a scholarship fund operated by QM. It stopped being a thing in 2012, and have been sitting there ever since. Queer McGill said they have a huge surplus and they don't need this amount of money. So we want to put the money into something that's consistent with the mandate of student support, and we think PSC renovation is a good use of our money. And we don't do a whole lot of capital projects to meet this mandate anyway. So this motion is the Board authorizing a transfer in the student life fund to move from the former QM to PSC to use the fund.**

Director Michaud: I'm curious of Ryan's thoughts on all of these.

GM: My thoughts on this are that I would not put the September completion probably at this point. **McGill's design services and project management are severely understaffed. Plus we are going into summer, and we are going to be battling with two weeks of construction holidays and a number of holidays that construction workers, including private construction workers, going on holiday.** So, that being said, my previous experiences regarding to projects like this is that everything can go to plan but there are always something happens that will interrupt the project completion. The walls seem to be okay, except for the north wall. There may be some piping running through which may provide some additional problems. The last time we did was 420, it took quite a bit extra time and had other complications with the construction and we are probably gonna get an additional container and the **container for waste management, and how it's gonna be organized is a little bit of an issue. It is possible but it probably won't complete by September.**



President: In which case, we will just chill in some soon-to-be-completed rooms, right? It's not a big issue?

VP CS: No, I don't think it's a big issue at all. PSC has been very successfully operating for two years without a permanent space. And I don't think an extra month or two will kill them. They have a bunch of places that they are working at right now.

VP F&O: We are only 90% sure of the dollar amount though because SRC still hasn't respond to my emails.

President: Are there any objections?

All in favor. → Approved.

1.2 Approval of Independent Student Group Status for the McGill Outdoors Club

VP CS: So this is the motion to revoke the club status of the McGill Outdoors Club and that will make them an independent student group. They have been doing negotiations to do this for basically two years. This motion is coming to the board without their consent. They are really really hanging on the fact that they are a club that has been operating for a very long time. Our internal regulations says that our clubs need to have bank accounts that are internally managed by SSMU. They have their own external account that we know nothing about. They refuse to do audits since 1991 because they say **that the 1991 VP Finance said that they didn't have to. And I told them this year that I would revoke their club status if they didn't. then they did do it. But it confirmed that they were way too big, and it doesn't make any sense to have them as a club. They have their independent insurance policy, they manage a property also. They have a lot going on. They also have access to things that other clubs don't. So they are already operating like an independent student group and this transition won't change anything for them. I'm pretty sure that they only want to retain their club status for reasons of pride. But myself and Stephen before me tried to do their way, to convince them to be willing to become an ISG, that's never gonna happen but need to happen regardless. So here we are. They are not aware of this. They said last week that they don't want to do it. But it gotta happen. This is the standard thing that we do when groups outgrow SSMU. In practice, this won't mean anything for them. They will just be mad that they are not a SSMU club anymore. In terms of space, we will put in writing that we are kicking them out of the building.**

GM: Would you predict that there's gonna be any media flak because of this?

VP CS: It doesn't really matter. It got my name and Zach's name on it. I think it's incredibly justifiable. They also have two years of emails Stephen and me telling them that you don't make any sense. Your current structure doesn't belong to SSMU so just go for it. So I don't know. Sure they could give us flak for doing it, but it gotta happen sometime.

VP F&O: Kimber will communicate with them differently. She will just say that we've been negotiating about this for years and SSMU has decided that we are going to make you an ISG. They've had their opportunities to make their case.



VP CS: There's nothing at this point that they could say to make it not true, but at the same time that's a fair point. I'm not going to do anything about that fair point because we are here and...

President: Are we going to send them an email right now and ask them to come for a discussion?

VP CS: No, I'm not doing that.

VP F&O: **It doesn't make any practical sense. The decision has been made long before it came to the Board. Also they are not going to care about if it has anything to do with the board. They think we are making the decision unilaterally, so I can just email them and tell them directly that Hi, we've made the decision, and this is the thing. And they have to accept it and it makes no difference.**

GM: When would this take effect?

VP CS: Immediately. This evening. Thank you for your question. Also, they have way too much money **and our auditor will think that it's super sketchy that we just don't report it and pretend it doesn't exist.** And we are getting new auditors, who might care. Do people have further questions?

All in favor except for 2 abstains (President Ibrahim and Director Douglas) → Approved.

1.3 Approval of the revised Committee Terms of Reference

President: **There's a motion online. Essentially all that has changed is that we added student staff accountability. HR and Finance committees are also added. Do you folks want to summarize the changes?**

VP CS: Yeah, we essentially added stuff to distinguish between the board committee from council committees. So when we approved the Board restructuring motion, we also had the list of what committees are going to what, and they are all pending approvals.

VP F&O: From what I saw from a financial side that they need to vastly change the way they operate if **they want to keep as a committee of commissioners. I would submit cheque reqs and she wouldn't know what the event is because they all work independently and they should not be a committee.**

President: **let's talk about it for a moment. Do you think they are operating independently just because of their size? Emily doesn't know what their expenses are and they don't report to her what they are doing. Also they are not that large.**

VP F&O: No, I have never said anything about their size. They are independent and they have always been since I could see from past budgets. They are confused when I emailed them about better documentations and their explanations of transactions and stuff. Because we are not French as executives, we were never that involved in the French-related commissions and that will continue to be the case. They will continue to work independently apart from our structure. But I honestly think we should consult them before going against them and make the changes.



President: Yes, that's a good point. I was just concerned that without the commissioner, we will move the terms of reference.

VP CS: We can add that to the job description of the VP external.

President: True, but does anyone want to say that the commissioner will continue to be for the virtue that it exists in the VP External portfolio?

VP F&O: Kareem I think we should call them.

VP CS: So we basically just pointed out who is the legislative council committee and who is the board committee. And for the ones that report to both, then who is reporting to.

President: I feel confusing to have their removal without having checked-out institutionalized documents. (They are all in the document on Vibe).

GM: I want to remove the GM from the nominating committee. You have to have a nominating committee, you cannot remove it.

VP CS: A bunch of members at large will be on the non-voting committee. Right now the GM is the only **legit person on it**. I'm not in favor of removing the GM from the committee.

GM: You created a committee that has permanent staff members or administrators as the chair. That **is not a good situation because right now how it's structured is that we call fabrications for particular positions embedded through HR coordinators**. In most cases they are graded by the HR coordinators. So the application process is skewed in that particular way. Also, they are interviewed by the GM, and in some cases, I try to employ a member of the nominating committee to be part of that interview process. But more often than not they are not available and the organization of the time period that **everybody's available is a lock-in system**, so it becomes HR coordinators. They get graded and based on the grades that are submitted to the nominating committee for considerations, and the nominating committee has nothing other than the grading material and the resumes. And further questions to ask, which happen through the emails or electronic correspondence because **it's impossible to get all the same people in the same room at the same time. So structurally it's flawed**. And the GM should probably not involved for picking for particularly those who are not paid and are working as volunteers, e.g., J-Board, Directors, etc. Salaried employees are a bit of different stories because we do need to process them. And the CEO could be different involved with that. But for a nominating committee perspective, it kinda needs to be restructured. And you need to remove the **GM, I've never heard of in any student associations that I've worked with or consulted with, it just doesn't happen**.

President: Ok, I will call both the commissioners.

VP External: Can we strike the last sentence from 2.7? "The Committee should be referred to as such in all communications, publications, and documents of the SSMU."



President: That's already deleted. That's so shady.

VP CS: I'm glad that you are reading it. There are several discrepancies, like 1.5.

VP FO: Back to the commissioners. As far as I knew that they just put whoever is interested in the Francophone affairs on the committee, instead of selecting by Emily from members at large. So keep in mind, we are saying to remove this because they don't keep operate this way. It would be SSMU from the top-down forcing them to operate in a way that they don't want to. So just keep in mind that you are forcing them to operate in a way that they don't want to.

VP CS: It is also much more flexible in their job descriptions.

President: I feel like they don't exist though. Those jobs don't exist anymore so no job descriptions.

VP CS: Yes. But in the job description it says that it's the responsibility of the VP external to make it a thing, which feels weird because we are making up a structure that we know isn't correct. Also, there are a lot of committees that have never met this year. So I don't know if this is the solution that we are looking for.

President: I have to consult them that their job isn't going to exist for the next year though.

Everyone in favor, no objection → Approved.

This section of the minutes have been redacted/removed because the content included information of a proprietary and financial nature.

1.4 BREAK (Until 7:25PM)

This section of the minutes have been redacted/removed because the content included information of a proprietary and financial nature.

1.5 Approval of the revised Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda

Director Dushan: The election-conduct committee is the main change, this is to ensure that the election officials have less leeway to interpret things that they thought are suitable in oppose to a broader basic consensus for it.

President: Have you had any consultations with Election SSMU on this?

Director Taylor: Yeah, I talked to them. They worried a little bit about increasing the workload and having members at large rotating the role. They are just a little bit worried but they said they think it's



a good idea. The other change is that in the document there's a typo, we changed the number from 150 to the actual number of 250. Also, we changed contact information of the radio station.

VP CS: I was under the impression that election-conduct committee is replacing the election-review committee. But since they are unclear about it, and if the Board wants to revisit it in the future, they can.

GM: I have a question, is that committee selected by the nominating committee? 20 members? (Yes).

VP CS: I'm pretty sure that you just need to collect the applications and the Board needs to go through them.

GM: Then it should go through the president?

VP CS: No it shouldn't go through the president.

GM: The board is going to be selecting, right?

VP CS: It shouldn't go through the president because election has been intentionally separated from the president. So it would be cool to have people to make sure that the CEO is in line with their job.

GM: Ok, so you are adding more workload to me. What are you going to take away?

President: How about the GM Art Competition? Off the social committee? If you want. (Everyone laughing).

VP CS: For the record, this is putting on the WuFoo form once a year, and I don't know if it's gonna be so taxing.

President: The one thing that I actually recalled from the council was the whole cross portfolio collaborative platform point.

VP CS: That's literally nonsense.

President: Can we just remove it?

VP CS: I think it's really bad for council because we debated at council and the council said that they wanted this weird stuff. I'm pretty sure everyone who's on council here right now...

VP Templer: I don't agree with what they were arguing for at all.

President: You don't have to Adam, you don't have to. Let's just remove this.

VP CS: I don't know. My thoughts on making changes to this are that they were all presented to the council, people have the opportunity to vote on individual points whether or not they want it to be



included. And when we mandated the board to make the changes to these IRs, council did that in the impression that these stuff being voted has been included. So I feel like it's not super democratic to do it. I think we should let it fail next year and we could change it in the next year. We all know that this isn't going to work.

Director Douglas: Let's ratify it and bring it to the Council in September.

President: Yeah, sounds great.

VP F&O: I feel like it's a waste of everybody's time if we are approving it now and changing it in September. I feel that if we do it once during the election period and change it in the next April, that's legit. Or the other way is just to make ourselves look better but we are in the spirit of changing it in September.

Director Douglas: The reason of ratifying it now and bringing to the Council in September is that people are coming back and can talk about it once again.

VP CS: I kinda feel like it should be done at the Board level in September because we have removed everything about election from the Council distinction. So what's best is to leave it for a year and see what happens. And remove it in April if you want to.

VP F&O: Which you will. That's gonna be a disaster.

VP CS: A total disaster.

President: Honestly, we can do that now. I feel like although I came to council through this committee, they didn't have consistent membership. I feel like people really want to respect them on council despite people disagreeing that there's gonna be risks, and we are keeping them in the name of democracy especially that they are contradictory. If it's not contradictory, then it's just gonna be one thing that's very clear, and I would be less opposed to it. Some people try to bend it and some don't, and it becomes a concern to me.

Director Dushan: If we leave it for a year, they may still be elected.

Director Douglas: I think we should ratify it right now. And in September take this whole thing to the appropriate body to go through everything. And in September, the appropriate body will be the Board. It's going to be removed eventually, but we've already said that we are going to ratify it and it has gone through consultation.

VP CS: I completely agree with Kahli. If we want to revisit it at the Board in the fall, there will be members at large on the Board, and it would be more legit than us doing it here right now. We don't have to follow the mandate of the council, but it would not be cool if we don't.

GM: You created a contradiction within the IR itself, also if you are worried about democracy you put that clause there inherently undermine it. I don't think anyone of us think this clause is a good idea. But it's the responsibly of the Board to ratify that.



Students' Society of McGill University

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Director Sobat: I agree with ratifying it. I don't have general for or against opinions on this.

Director Taylor: I agree with Kahli. We need to make sure that we are going to address it again with the new Board.

Director Michaud: I agree with it, but at the same time I feel like the way we are doing it in September is kinda pointless.

VP F&O: We are only getting members at large on the Board till late November. Can we really wait for that long? History repeats itself. But yeah you can do that, but it's at the same time a bit dumb if we can just do consultations with the members at large. I completely get where does Kahli and others are coming, but I think that the spirit of pooling it in June is still going back on your words. Do you understand what I mean? Yeah, it's gonna be a grey area, we ratify it and then we repool right after that. It seems equally sketchy to me, which is why I think it's good to recommend now if we want to keep it or not.

President: We need four more approvals to approve this decision. So why don't we do it right now?

In favor of removing: 7 (Zach, Adam, Dushan, Kimber, Erin, Kareem, Sean)

Abstain: 2 (Kahli, Lexi)

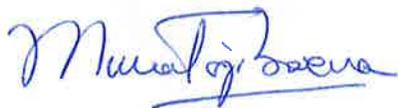
Against: 0

TERMINATION OF THE MEETING

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was terminated at 8:24 PM.

Kareem Ibrahim, President

Jeffrey Wu, Recording Secretary


2017-07-31 (President)