



SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

July 9, 2019

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held in the SSMU Boardroom on Tuesday, July 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Husayn Jamal (Chair, non-voting), Bryan Buraga (Officer), Sanchi Bhalla (Officer), Garima Karia (Legislative Councilor), Billy Kawasaki (Officer), Adam Gwiazda-Amsel (Officer), Jonah Levitt (Member-at-Large), Kyle Rubenok (Member-at-Large), Ryan Hughes (General Manager, non-voting [called in 19:27, left 19:38]), Andrew Figueiredo (Legislative Councilor), Shayan Sheikh (International Representative, non-voting)

Absent: Sam Haward (Officer, non-voting), Lucille Xiang (Member-at-Large), Mu Rong Yang (Legislative Councilor), Madeline Wilson (Officer, non-voting)

1. Call to Order: **19:10**

The Board of Directors meeting is called to order at 19:10.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The SSMU acknowledges that McGill University is situated on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe nations, a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples. The SSMU recognizes and respects these nations as the traditional custodians of the land and water on which it is located.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Director Rubenok asks why recommendations cannot be made in the public agenda. Director Buraga replies that this is only because there is a desire for the freedom to express the confidential nature of the context, but it can be brought into the public if they wish. Members agree to keep the debate confidential but adjust the minutes in order to make as much information available to the public as possible.

4. Report of the Executive Committee



Director Buraga says that he has compiled all of the motions that are non-confidential. These are for the Board's information so that they can comment and offer their approval as they see fit. Director Buraga asks that they let him know if they have specific questions.

5. Email Approvals

There are no email approvals.

6. Motions for Approval

a. Motion to overturn the SSMU Sponsorship Declaration Guide - **TABLED**

Director Rubenok says that the guide was released publicly but was not run by the Board. He states that the Board needs better control over how groups interact with third parties and that he is alarmed by the prohibited sponsors section. SSMU has sponsored agreements with alcohol companies, so he states that he does not understand why student groups are banned from having sponsorship from the same groups. He states that his next concern is the pricing scheme of option 1, where 10% is taken as a commission by the Operations department from student groups. Director Rubenok notes that the club that he runs, McHacks, would have had to pay almost \$10,000 last year in commissions to the Operations department. Director Rubenok says that if the same contract is used 30 times a year, it seems illogical to pay the salary of someone to sign the same contract 30 times.

The Chair asks if Director Rubenok has any other concerns. Director Rubenok states that he is also alarmed that none of the groups who have been successfully doing sponsorships for the past several years were consulted. Director Gwiazda-Amsel seconds this.

Director Bhalla agrees that the ban on sponsorships from adult entertainment does not make sense, but also notes that sponsorships concerning alcohol could risk SSMU's sponsorship by Sleeman, as clubs legally fall under SSMU. Director Rubenok says that the operations department still needs to sign off and would not facilitate a sponsorship that risks SSMU's sponsorship.

Director Buraga asks if Director Rubenok is amenable to having these concerns communicated to the Operations department before the Board makes a decision.

Director Rubenok states that he would like it immediately overturned because no one approved it. The Directors question who approved the motion, and Director Buraga suggests calling the General Manager.

Director Rubenok states that he is amenable to have up to a 10% maximum per contract and that if the same contract is used with several sponsors, it should not trigger a new commission. Subsequent signings of same contract would just ensure that sponsor is not on prohibited list. He states that he



can accept 10% up to the \$500 amount, but the prohibited sponsors issue seems counterintuitive to the other values that SSMU holds.

Director Gwiazda-Amsel notes that SSMU does have an ethical investment policy. Director Rubenok asks if Director Gwiazda-Amsel is calling adult entertainment unethical, to which Director Gwiazda-Amsel replies that they are not personally calling adult entertainment unethical, but they believe the policy might.

Director Rubenok says that he would like to either overturn the motion or amend it today. He welcomes the General Manager's input and agrees to leave the motion tabled until the Board can speak with the General Manager.

The General Manager calls at 19:27. Director Rubenok explains that he understands the desire to prohibit certain sponsors, but outright banning alcohol sponsorships seems hypocritical. There needs to be nuance to allow groups to get sponsorships from different companies and right now, the guide outright disallows this. Director Rubenok suggests that the wording needs to be fixed to state that alcohol related sponsorship may require more scrutiny. The General Manager states that this will have to go to operations for approval. Director Rubenok agrees, stating that he would like the sponsorships to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

On the subject of contract charges, the General Manager says that continuous contracts tend not to change, making them a single contract, with no subsequent charges. Director Rubenok replies that he runs McHacks, and that they were not consulted about that, and the club was charged 10,000 last year. Director Rubenok expresses that he feels that this is unacceptable for the same contract being used numerous times throughout the year.

The General Manager states that he misunderstood Director Rubenok earlier and thought that he was referring to one supplier, not a contract template. He says that the sponsorship contract has been brought in-house, so all sponsorship projects all have the same template. This means that there is no difference and there should be no charge. Director Rubenok says this is unclear in the contract and some groups were terrified by this and how much money they would have to pay.

The General Manager states that he will make a note and review the language to make sure it is clear. The point was not to extract a ton of money from clubs to prevent them from operating. Director Rubenok wants to amend his motion to table this to an email approval. The Chair tables the motion and states that it is pending email approval. The General Manager departs at 19:38.

- a. Motion to approve amendments to the HR Committee Terms of Reference -- Moved:
Director Buraga, Second: Director Gwiazda-Amsel - **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Buraga says that by putting the oversight of director level positions with the Board of Directors, this would create conflict in the General Administrator being unable to perform his duties



Board of Directors / Comité d'Administration

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properly and hold them to account. Currently the General Administrator does not have performance evaluations. In conversation, it has seemed to make the most sense for Board of Directors to conduct evaluations for the General Administrator. It makes sense for the human resources manager to take part in terms of permanent staff since the main process of interviewing will be done by the Human Resources Manager. Director Buraga states that in terms of reporting, it was agreed that the director level positions and General Manager will report on the first of quarterly months (September, January, April and June) to the Board for how their operations are going in each department.

Voting procedure:

In favor: Director Buraga, Director Gwiazda-Amsel, Director Bhala, Director Rubenok, Director Levitt, Director Figueiredo, Director Karia

Opposed:

Abstained:

- i. Motion to approve the Motion Regarding an Interim Provision for the Internal Regulations of Governance 2019-07-09 -- Moved: Director Buraga, Second: Director Bhalla - **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Buraga says that at an Executive Committee meeting last month, the Committee decided to allow the vetoes for email approvals to delay discussion and voting until the next in person meeting of the Executive Committee. It is informal at the moment but Director Buraga wants it to be approved and during their meeting in September, he hopes to make it a formalized part of internal regulations.

Voting procedure:

In favor: Director Buraga, Director Bhalla, Director Gwiazda-Amsel, Director Rubenok, Director Levitt, Director Karia, Director Figuerido

Opposed:

Abstain:

7. For Discussion
 - a. Nominating Committee

Director Buraga states that the Parliamentarian's employee file has been completed and that he needs the names of all members of the nominating committee to pass on to him, and then the Parliamentarian will nominate new directors and justices to the Judicial Board. The members are: Jonah Levitt, Kyle Rubenok, Andrew Figueiredo, Brent Jamsah, Moses Milchberg. The Parliamentarian will be in contact with these members shortly.



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b. Building and Operations Management Committee (BOMCOM)

Director Buraga states that there are not enough members in the Building and Operations Management Committee (BOMCOM) for it to meet quorum. They need to nominate two directors so that it may meet because Director Gwiazda-Amsel wants to discuss some business. If two people wish to sit on it, Buraga asks that they make themselves known.

Director Rubenok and Director Sheikh are nominated. They are appointed to BOMCOM immediately, with plans for their term to end August 31, 2019. There is unanimous approval.

8. Confidential Session

9. Adjournment: **20:26**



Bryan Buraga, President

APPROVED