



SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

October 3, 2019

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held in the SSMU Boardroom on Thursday, October 3, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Husayn Jamal (Chair, non-voting), Sanchi Bhalla (Officer), Billy Kawasaki (Officer), Sam Haward (Officer, non-voting), Mu Rong Yang (Legislative Councilor), Jordyn Wright (Legislative Councilor), Rohan Bhutkar (Legislative Councilor), Jack Kline (Member-at-Large), Garima Karia (Legislative Councilor), Adam Gwiazda-Amsel (Officer), Jonah Levitt (Member-at-Large), Shayan Sheikh (International Representative, non-voting)

Absent: Madeline Wilson (Officer, non-voting), Lucille Xiang (Member-at-Large), Bryan Buraga (Officer), Kyle Rubenok (Member-at-Large)

1. Call to Order: **18:03**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:03.

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 - **ADOPTED**

The agenda is adopted.

4. Report of the Executive Committee

Director Gwiazda-Amsel explains that hirings were done and some of the omissions exist because the service in question have strict confidentiality agreements about what position the individuals occupy within the service. He also adds that there will be no more smartrecruiters, saving about \$7000 for the Society.



5. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification

- a. Motion Regarding 2019-2020 Elections SSMU Timeline -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- b. Motion Regarding Creation of Indigenous Equity Fund and Fee 2019-09-26 --
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Director Yang adds that she is personally in favor of this fee especially within the Faculty of Education where there are indigenous students that will benefit from this, however, she has questions about where the \$1.00 fee figure comes from. She explains that if she recalls correctly, there was also a similar figure charged last year that was at \$0.80 and was ultimately rejected by Council, so where does the dollar amount come from and why is it non-opt outable?

VP Finance adds that in terms of the dollar amount at Council, the VP Finance and the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner promised during the referendum campaign to provide a budget showing a breakdown of the \$1.00 fee, with 10% of the fee being discretionary (\$4,000), annual (non-audible) of around \$10,000-\$13,000 which would cover the salary of the Indigenous affairs commissioner which is around \$4000 with increased hours, which is about half of the fee itself. VP Finance also adds that this will be fleshed out during the referendum campaign with a full budget and proceeds to ask the Board if councilors had amended the motion to include that- to which the Chair replies that the Executives had said they would take on responsibility with crafting the appendix with the budget but there was no formal amendment.

- c. Motion Regarding Support of Climate Justice Actions at McGill 2019-09-26 --
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

6. Email Approvals

There are no email approvals.

7. Motions for Approval

There are no motions for approval.

8. For Discussion

- a. Nominating Committee

Director Levitt speaks to this discussion topic, however, formally announcing that he has stepped down from Nominating Committee due to the re-opening of Board applications as of November 14th and therefore he can speak to everything that has been up to the point of him stepping down from the position. He adds that applications have been re-opened for the additional Judicial Board Positions



and the Board of Directors for after November 15th but besides that he is not sure about the amount of applicants nor about the status of the applications from the switch from Smartrecruiters.

b. HR Committee Terms of Reference

Director Gwiazda-Amsel explains that there should be an equity commissioner in the HR committee, especially since the entire point of the HR committee was to address equity complaints specifically against certain members of the permanent staff so it would be good to have an equity commissioner there. He also adds that the HR Committee should be tasked with reviewing the HR policy for any shortfalls at the end of the academic year as well.

Director Kawasaki asks who is actually on the HR Committee as of now to which Director Gwiazda-Amsel replies: the President, VP Finance and two directors that are not Executives. Director Bhalla asks if there is a reason why the HR Manager is not on the committee. Director Gwiazda-Amsel adds that he misspoke and the HR Manager is in fact on the committee as the committee chair and a non-voting member.

Director Kawasaki asks if he can be on the HR Committee as many casual staff fall under its purview, to which Director Gwiazda-Amsel responds that at the moment that would not be possible as the terms of reference do not allow for that. Director Bhudkar asks if there is a way for Director Kawasaki to be added to the committee through an amendment to which the Chair replies that a motion must be brought forth at the next session. Director Gwiazda-Amsel asks if they could do that at this moment- to which the Chair replies in the affirmative but warns against it as typically Directors should not vote on motions which they have not had time to duly consider. Director Wright asks if the rules can be suspended and a motion be added to the floor to which the Chair clarifies that seeing as there are technically no rules, so this could be done. At this point Director Karia adds that in her personal opinion, the Board should not do this because they should at least wait one Board meeting before moving on such a motion, as she does not have a problem with it, but they want to make sure that they are doing their due diligence before moving on a motion.

Director Gwiazda-Amsel adds that just for the consideration of the Board, the reason why the VP Finance is on this committee is that the Constitution gives supervision of HR matters to the VP Finance, which he finds is mildly strange. VP Finance adds that the intention, even with the way the IR's are written on this, is that Finance and HR are tied because the Society's biggest expenses when it comes to these matters are salaries. Personally he would not be comfortable taking part in the deliberation, investigation process of equity complaints but it is more so for the financial aspect.

Director Gwiazda-Amsel asks if the amendments made by Director Buraga on July 8th were adopted or not. The Chair replies that he does not know because the HR Committee terms of reference are not in the terms of reference book, so Director Gwiazda-Amsel would have to confer with the Governance Manager.



Board of Directors | Conseil d'Administration

Tel: (514) 398-6801 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | ssmu.ca

3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

9. Confidential Session commences **18:16**

The Board enters into Confidential session at 18:16.

10. Adjournment: **18:47**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Buraga', is written over a horizontal line.

Bryan Buraga, President

APPROVED