



SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

October 22, 2019

The special Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held in the SSMU Boardroom on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Husayn Jamal (Chair, non-voting), Bryan Buraga (Officer), Sanchi Bhalla (Officer), Billy Kawasaki (Officer), Adam Gwiazda-Amsel (Officer), Jonah Levitt (Member-at-Large), Kyle Rubenok (Member-at-Large), Sam Haward (Officer, non-voting), Mu Rong Yang (Legislative Councilor), Garima Karia (Legislative Councilor), Rohan Bhutkar (Legislative Councillor), Jordyn Wright (Legislative Councillor)

Absent: Madeline Wilson (Officer, non-voting), Lucille Xiang (Member-at-Large), Shayan Sheikh (International Representative, non-voting), Jack Kline (Member-at-Large)

1. Call to Order: **19:04**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 19:04.

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**

4. Motions for Approval

a. Motion to Adopt Recommendation 1 of the “Sale or service of food protocol”

--UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Director Buraga establishes that this motion is what is needed at this moment, as this option is the one that is in line with the law and would recommend against option 2 or option 3 because that would simply be going along with the status quo and would most likely result in this situation happening again or could lead to someone having allergic reactions and the Society would have to face all the liability associated with such an event.



Director Wright says that people are booking tables through faculties and she believes they should be letting SSMU know about their intention to sell food, regardless of who they are booking through.

Director Wright asks if there is a way to communicate this information to faculties or delegate this to faculties that control the buildings that food is being sold in. VP Finance responds to Director Wright's question, stating that every Club that holds an event must declare it to SSMU or risk being sanctioned. This has been a policy for years so this is already in place, and he does not believe it should be beholden upon the faculties VP's to check if every Club has done their due diligence.

VP Finance asks Director Kawasaki if the Clubs and Services Coordinator communicated with clubs that have events scheduled for this week. Director Kawasaki says that she sent an email out saying that the events will be cancelled due to the reasons aforementioned.

A portion of the public minutes has been redacted due to its nature of the Society's legal matters.

Voting procedure:

In favour: Director Buraga, Director Bhalla, Director Kawasaki, Director Levitt, Director Rubenok, Director Yang, Director Karia, Director Bhutkar, Director Wright

Opposed: Director Gwiazda-Amsel

Abstain:

This motion is unanimously approved.

- b. Motion to Mandate the Vice-President (Finance) to Share Details of the Food Infarction Including the Nature of the Fine via an Op-Ed in a Campus Publication by COB on October 25, 2019 and to circulate the op-ed on social media -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Buraga says that seeing as they have a multitude of issues to deal with at the same time. Director Buraga says he personally recommends, as the VP Finance had previously mentioned, contact one of the campus newspapers- via an OP Ed.

Motion amended, reflected above.

Director Rubenok asks whether they will be able to get an Op-Ed published by the end of the week- to which VP Finance replies in the affirmative.



Director Karia says that if we say as soon as possible in the motion there is little accountability and can happen at any time and there should be a strict date by which the Op-Ed is written and once it is written and published the SSMU should share it on its social media so that it can control the information and narrative in a way that is clear and explanatory rather than simply being news.

Director Buraga amends the motion to say by October 25th and to circulate the op-ed on social media.

VP Finance states that he will try to have this done by tomorrow, so he can send it off because he would also like to announce it at Council.

Voting procedure:

In favour: Director Buraga, Director Bhalla, Director Kawasaki, Director Gwiazda-Amsel, Director Levitt, Director Rubenok, Director Yang, Director Karia, Director Bhutkar, Director Wright

Opposed:

Abstain:

This motion is unanimously approved.

5. For Discussion

a. Nominating Committee Update

Director Rubenok states that there is no specific update since the last meeting, as they are still waiting on the Parliamentarian to finish the reports. He hopes that this will be done soon. They are hoping to have them out four (4) days before the GA, so that Board can have at least three (3) days to review and vote on it the night before the GA.

Director Wright asks who is taking over for Director Levitt's spot on the Nominating Committee. Director Rubenok replies that Director Xiang will be doing so.

Director Rubenok goes on to explain that the first order of business for Nominating Committee will be to complete Judicial Board before moving on to anything else as they are still down Judicial Board Justices, especially with pending decisions to be made. Director Rubenok adds that apart from that, another area of focus for Nominating Committee will be to make the questions for Judicial Board and Board of Directors applicants actually be relevant and as the current questions have no real reflection of what Board members and Judicial Board Justices actually do.



The Chair makes a note, reminding the Board that for the Member-at-Large Directors, he does need the names earlier than the night before the General Assembly because the Chair needs to circulate the motion to Councilors to move the motion, but he cannot circulate it until the motion is complete.

Director Rubenok asks whether the General Assembly can just do this directly- to which the Chair replies that there does have to be a motion, but the motion to nominate Directors, needs four (4) councilors or 100 members of the Society to move it. However, he cannot get four (4) Councilors to move the motion until it is complete.

Director Wright asks if she can be a mover or second on the motion if her name is on it. The Chair replies that she is within her rights to do so.

Director Buraga asks what the timeline is for nomination of Judicial Board Justices. Director Rubenok says it is the same, he has two people in mind and most of Nominating Committee is in agreement as to who they are nominating. At this time, they are just waiting on the report to get written and submitted which will mean that there will be five (5) presiding justices.

b. Food Infraction

Director Buraga directs Board members to look into the drive for the food infraction folder, which contains the City of Montreal Food Inspection part which talks specifically about the laws and the rules that were broken and the ways to fix it. Director Buraga explains that for the fines, the first one regarding the cleanliness situation ranges from \$2,000 to \$45,000, \$250 to \$9,000 for the temperature at which the food is kept, this would cost the Society \$54,000 dollars if they were to calculate it at the maximum fines possible. Director Buraga adds however that according to the inspector and the Society's Operations Director, the fine is based off of previous infractions, meaning the more infractions you have, the higher the fine goes. Director Buraga clarifies that currently, they do not know if this is their first fine or if there have been multiple fines in the past, but generally they can make an estimate that the expected fine will be around \$5,000-10,000.

Director Buraga explains that the fine being projected is something that all food providers, such as the Clubs selling Samosas or Donuts, are supposed to lay out when they are serving food to inform whoever is buying the food about allergies and what is exactly in the food. Director Buraga points to the next slide pointing out the recommendations that the Operations Department has laid out for them to prevent such a situation from happening again. Director Buraga adds that he would like to make it known that this was brought up as a potential risk and the Board accepted all risks by not following the protocol that was suggested by the Operations Department previously, which resulted in them possibly paying \$54,000, and therefore he believes they should now implement this protocol as soon as possible. The protocol follows the law to the letter and they have all the materials and equipment necessary to follow all these rules to the letter. Director Buraga says that in the meantime, they have put out a full moratorium on Samosa sales until they figure out how to better address the situation.



Furthermore, Director Buraga points to the recommendations and explains that the Operations Department is attempting to work with the inspector to get a not-for-profit food distribution license, which would allow the Society to not have to pay every single food permit fee, which would make this less financially inaccessible for Clubs and Services. Director Buraga explains that Option B, on the screen, is what the Board of Directors previously opted to move forward with and that Option C was also considered but they were also warned that by ignoring the problem they were not making it disappear and they had resolved to accept recommendation 2.

Director Levitt asks if they know the specific fine amount for the infraction. Director Buraga replies that they do not know the exact amount, but they are expecting to receive the final amount in about a month or so.

Director Bhutkar asks what recommendation 1 would look like, realistically, for Clubs. He asks this because, for example, how would Clubs regulate temperature of food being sold. Director Buraga says that they have all the materials necessary in order to follow all the instructions at hand, such as hotplates, warmers, iceboxes, mini-fridges. Director Buraga says they would be able to provide this to all Clubs and Services that would like to sell food to **fundraise** but they would need to register with the society beforehand. Director Buraga adds that in this case, the particular Club did not inform them of their intent to sell food, so they were not able to check-in with them prior to the encounter with the inspector.

Director Bhalla asks what would happen if they were to put this in place, but there is another Club that does not inform them of their sale. Director Buraga says that that is another risk that they would have to acknowledge and at this point they are just trying to minimize that risk.

A portion of the public minutes has been redacted due to its nature of the Society's legal matters.

6. Confidential Session: **19:39**

The Board enters into Confidential Session at 19:39.

7. Adjournment: **20:24**

The meeting is adjourned at 20:24.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Buraga' is positioned above a horizontal line.

Bryan Buraga, President