



**Students' Society of McGill University**

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*Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories*

# REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Submitted for: 2020-01-16

Dear Councillors,

On Monday, December 2nd, 2019, the Board of Directors held their second meeting of the 2019-2020 governance year.

During the Public session of the meeting, the Board of Directors discussed the ratifications of the Legislative Council motions from its November 28, 2019 meeting. During this session, members of the gallery, as well as Directors, engaged in a lengthy discussion and debate on the Motion Regarding Free Trip Offers to Student Leaders, which was approved during that Legislative Council.

At this meeting, the Board of Directors exercised its right to overturn this motion from Council as per Section 6, Article 1.3.1 of the Internal Regulations of Governance, on the grounds of legal liability and financial risk related to the Society's Memorandum of Agreement with McGill University. The overturning of a motion is a step not taken lightly by the Board of Directors, as we seek to respect the autonomy and democratic representation of the Legislative Council. However, in this case, we believe that this intervention was warranted.

Typically, when a Council motion is overturned by the Board of Directors, it returns to the next regular meeting of Legislative Council, to be debated and voted upon with the Board's concerns or proposed amendments in mind. However, an Exceptional Interim Provision was passed by the Board to prevent this motion from returning to Council because the Board believed that this would create an unnecessary debate, as the trip in question would have already occurred by this time. However, per Section 6, Article 1.6 of the Internal Regulations of Governance, Legislative Council must consider and vote upon this exceptional interim provision.

The Board of Directors acknowledges the sentiments of Council regarding this motion, but ultimately our decision was based on the financial risk threatened by the University, where they could have found us to be in violation of our Memorandum of Agreement, withhold our funds, and therefore put the very existence of the Society at risk. The Board of Directors is also aware of our Members' concerns regarding the Conflict of Interest Policy as it stands, and will be implementing revisions to the policy throughout the next few months.

Best regards,

The SSMU Board of Directors



## APPENDIX A

### Motion to Uphold the Interim Provision Adopted at the Board of Directors Meeting of December 2, 2019 2020-01-16

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors approved, at its December 2, 2019 meeting, an Exceptional Interim Provision pursuant to Division 06, Part I, Section 1.6 of the Internal Regulations of Governance that would suspend Division 06, Part I, Section 1.3 of the Internal Regulations of Governance and not send the *Motion Regarding Free Trip Offers to Student Leaders 2019-11-28* back to the Legislative Council;

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the Legislative Council approve this Exceptional Interim Provision.