



# SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

March 6, 2020

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held in the SSMU Boardroom on Friday, March 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Lauren Hill (Chair, non-voting), Sam Haward (Officer, non-voting), Bryan Buraga (Officer), Sanchi Bhalla (Officer), Adam Gwiazda-Amsel (Officer), Rohan Bhutkar (Legislative Councillor), Paige Collins (Member-at-Large), Jonah Levitt (Member-at-Large), Mustafa Fakh (Legislative Councillor), André Lametti (Legislative Councillor), Michal Chernov (Governance Manager, non-voting), Iris He (International Student Representative, non-voting)

Absent: Daniel Dufour (General Manager, non-voting), Adin Chan (Legislative Councillor), Billy Kawasaki (Officer), Madeline Wilson (Officer, non-voting), Jack Kline (Member-at-Large), Ana Paula Sanchez (Member-at-Large)

1. Call to Order: **10:03**
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**
4. Report of the Executive Committee --**ADOPTED**
5. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification
  - a. [Motion Regarding SSMU keep.meSAFE Fee Referendum Question 2020-02-27](#)  
--**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
  - b. [Motion Regarding the Creation of a Services Committee 2020-02-13](#) --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**



- c. [Motion Regarding Affordable Student Housing Plan 2020-02-13](#) --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
  - d. [Motion Regarding SSMU Referral Services Fee Referendum Question 2020-02-27](#) --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
  - e. [Motion Regarding SSMU Club Fund Fee Referendum Question 2020-02-27](#) --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
  - f. [Motion Regarding Plan on Clubs and Services as SSMU's Highest Priority 2019-03-28](#) --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
  - g. [Motion to Endorse the Student Strike for Climate Justice 2020-02-27](#) --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
  - h. [Report - Recommendation of the Services Review Committee 2020-02-27](#) --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
  - i. Motion to nominate Councillor Rhamey to the Environment Committee 2020-02-27 --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
6. Email Approvals
- a. [Motion Regarding Nomination to the Society's Board of Directors 2020-02-27](#) 2020-02-28 -- **APPROVED 2020-02-28**

Director Gwiazda-Amsel explains that Director Lametti was not yet on the Board of Directors at the time of this vote, and that the vote was actually to ratify him to the Board of Directors, so Director Gwiazda-Amsel should the motion read as Director Lametti not having voted or should it not count him towards the quorum of the vote in the first place. The Chair agrees with this rationale.

Did not vote: Director Kline, Director Collins

- b. [Motion to approve the Motion Regarding Amendment to Winter 2020 Referendum Dates 2020-02-27](#) 2020-03-02 --**APPROVED 2020-03-03**

Abstain: Director Fakih

7. Minutes for Approval
- a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2020-01-23 --**UNANIMOUS APPROVAL**



b. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2020-02-20 --**UNANIMOUS APPROVAL**

8. Motions for Approval

a. Motion to approve Funding Committee Allocations 2020-03-06 --**APPROVED**

Director Gwiazda-Amsel asks if these were brought before Council. VP Finance replies that they were not, but there are groups that need these allocations next week. VP Finance explains that these are February's allocations for funding and they will come to Council in March, but he wanted to run them by the Board for approval first, because some groups would like the funding early next week as they have contracts to sign and payments due. VP Finance explains that in the past, the Society would just give money before running it by the Council or Board so, while this is a slight breach of the procedure, it is still a step up.

Director Gwiazda-Amsel asks if VP Finance can elaborate on some of the more abnormal funding allocations such as the allocations of mental health, and space funds which are not frequent. VP Finance explains that any Mental Health Fund allocations go to the Mental Health Commissioner first for approval. Director Gwiazda-Amsel explains and says that his question primarily had to do with the space fund. VP Finance states that the space funds mandate is any physical space on campus, and they have so far only had four (4) applications and all of them are from the EUS (Engineering Undergraduate Society). VP Finance explains that the question more broadly for the Board is that the EUS uses upwards of \$50,000 dollars of this funding every year which is a problem because you have certain design teams in the EUS that are reliant on the society for their funding every year, so this becomes a problem because the society is essentially charging students a 90 cent fee, and then allocating 10% of that entire fund to something that most students have no idea about. VP Finance says that this is a little bit disingenuous, because they know that this 10% is going to EUS design teams, and they should probably be saying this to students up front or changing the way the application system works.

Director Gwiazda-Amsel reiterates what VP Finance says and adds that EUS design teams are not open to all members of the SSMU, so it is a little inconsistent that the Society should be giving them such large amounts of funding that is paid for by all students.

Director Fakhri responds to Director Gwiazda-Amsel's comment by stating that these positions are open to all members of the SSMU, but adds that he does not believe all members of the SSMU would be interested in the Design teams.

VP Finance states that all of these applications do fit the criteria outlined in the Internal Regulations and the Funding Guidebook. VP Finance explains that if they want to make this change, it would have to go through the funding committee for review and go to council first.



Director Bhutkar asks how space allocations and funding for spaces under renovations is being handled, considering that many SSMU members may not have easy access to that given space. VP Finance says that the mandate of the Space Fund is to improve any physical space on campus, and there is nothing in the Internal Regulations regarding who can use that space, as long as it is accessible by some SSMU members. VP Finance explains that they cannot deny applications, and if these applications meet the mandates from a SSMU member or faculty association and meet the deficit then they are valid.

9. For Discussion

a. Nominating Committee Progress

Director Levitt says that as far as he knows, there has not been any work on the Nominating Committee since the previous Judicial Board Justices were hired as well as the International Representative for the Board of Directors. Director Levitt says that he cannot recall if there is anything else to do until the lead up to the hiring for the upcoming season for the Alumni Director and the Professional director.

Director Gwiazda-Amsel states that there was an idea to move the awards of distinction nominating process away from the Funding Committee to the Nominating Committee, because it seems that a committee whose mandate it is to analyze skill sets and nominate based on that, would be a better judge than the Funding Committee, and asks what the Board thinks about this.

Director Fakih says that he was on the Funding Committee last year and they evaluated the awards of distinction and everyone in the room felt that they should not be in charge of evaluating the awards and they felt like this was something that was put on them because no one else wanted to do it. Director Fakih states that it was different from the usual duties that the Funding Committee is in charge of and does not believe the funding committee should be evaluating the awards.

Director Levitt says that he was not specifically aware of this discussion, but this is something they can definitely speak about going into the future.

Director Collins asks if the awards of distinction are the SSMU awards. VP Finance states that they are different, as the awards of distinction are between four (4) or five (5) \$2,000 dollar scholarships that the SSMU gives out based on the interest that the awards of distinction fund earns in a year, usually between 8,000 to \$10,000 which determines the amount of awards they give. VP Finance explains that the usual process is an application process that is out right now and available until the end of the month, followed by a meeting of the funding committee to choose the four (4) or five (5) award winners which goes to the Legislative Council for ratification and then the award winners are notified. VP Finance says he does not know how effective this is to have at the Council level, and that the decisions should probably be at the Board level and sending this to the Nominating Committee to



evaluate would actually make sense, as the Nominating Committee does not normally have work around March and should be able to take this on.

Director Bhutkar believes it might be more politically neutral to have it at the Board of Directors level.

VP Finance says that if they send this to the Nominating Committee and Board, since the Board meets until later on than the Legislative Council does in the year, they could have an extended application period as well.

b. General Manager introduction – **TABLED**

Director Buraga says the GM is away on business and thus was not able to make it to this Board of Directors meeting and also as an addition it would not have made sense for him to come at this time as many of the different Directors are calling in and therefore the in person interaction would be missing.

10. Confidential Session: **10:25**

11. Adjournment: **10:48**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'B. Buraga' is written over a horizontal line.

Bryan Buraga, President