



SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

April 9, 2020

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Lauren Hill (Chair, non-voting), Sanchi Bhalla (Officer), Adam Gwiazda-Amsel (Officer), Billy Kawasaki (Officer), Sam Haward (Officer, non-voting), Rohan Bhutkar (Legislative Councillor), Paige Collins (Member-at-Large), Adin Chan (Legislative Councillor), Mustafa Fakhri (Legislative Councillor), Jack Kline (Member-at-Large), André Lametti (Legislative Councillor), Daniel Dufour (General Manager, non-voting), Michal Chernov (Governance Manager, non-voting), Iris He (International Student Representative, non-voting)

Absent: Jonah Levitt (Member-at-Large), Bryan Buraga (Officer), Ana Paula Sanchez (Member-at-Large), Madeline Wilson (Officer, non-voting)

1. Call to Order: **18:02**

The Chair calls the Board of Directors meeting to order at 18:02.

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

The agenda is adopted.

4. Report of the Executive Committee

Director Gwiazda-Amsel says the Executive Committee report has been distributed and he would be happy to answer any questions regarding any of the content. Director Chan asks what is the letter submitted to the Dean of Students Selection Committee. Director Gwiazda-Amsel says this was a letter that would be sent to the selection committee, but that this was to approve the motivation of sending a letter, not actually the act of sending the letter, which is still in the process of being drafted. Director



Gwiazda-Amsel says that this letter is essentially to remind the selection committee about the values that the students want to see in a Dean of Students, and a similar letter was sent in 2015-2016 which led to the selection of the previous Dean.

5. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification

All Legislative Council motions, with the exceptions of items 5.b, 5.i. and 5.m, were ratified in a block format.

- a. [Motion Regarding the Adoption of an Events Policy 2020-02-27 2020-03-26](#)
--UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED
- b. [Report-Clubs Committee 2020-03-26](#) (amended to exclude HeforShe) -- **APPROVED**

Director Lametti asks about the changes brought to this motion. Director Lametti points out that the original report had approved the club HeforShe and at Legislative Council, there was a point raised by the VP University Affairs saying that it should not be approved, to which he is not sure why. Director Lametti asks if the correct processes had been followed regarding the full status removal, and worries that if this is not properly backed up by the correct processes. Director Lametti worries that amending a report compiled by a committee with expertise like this on the basis of simple, and unsubstantiated information may set a bad precedent. Director Lametti requests more details regarding this as he is still confused about this.

Director Kawasaki says that this has just been postponed for the time being, as he has not had ample time to investigate the situation. Further, he explains that VP University Affairs had concerns over their activities and those activities possibly not being in line with the Equity Policy. Director Kawasaki explains that there were also concerns raised about their operational performance, which he has not been able to corroborate at this time, and he needs to speak to the VP University Affairs and the Equity Commissioners to see how they think that HeforShe is not in line with the Equity Policy. Director Kawasaki says that the committee did not find a problem with it, and last year's Clubs Committee that provided them interim status did not find a problem with it either.

Director Gwiazda-Amsel states that he believes it pertinent that the Legislative Council be able to flag things like this, as it is a representative body with multiple constituencies that may be able to catch things that clubs committee would not- so the argument that was brought up to legislative council was that the member who objected had heard certain serious objections to the general behavior of HeforShe as well as the concept of the club as a whole. Director Gwiazda-Amsel says that this may be a discussion whether Clubs Committee reports should be coming to the Legislative Council at all, but he believes that it should be.

Director Lametti says that he agrees with Director Gwiazda-Amsel's reasoning, but he is more concerned with the fact that Clubs Committee thought this was ok, but then it emerged at Legislative



Council that it was not. Director Lametti wonders if there is some sort of deficiency in the process of the Clubs Committee regarding equity that they should look at fixing. Director Lametti also points out that it is unclear in this report that approval is being postponed pending investigation, and this should be clarified.

Director Kawasaki thanks Director Lametti for his clarification, and agrees that the report should be amended to exclude HeforShe for approval, but the rest of the report could be approved as is.

Director Lametti inquires as to whether this should come back for review at the Board. The Chair replies in the affirmative. Director Kawasaki clarifies that this can be sent for email approval to the Board members.

Director Kawasaki moves to approve the amended Clubs Committee Report, seconded by Director Fakhri.

This motion is unanimously approved.

- c. [Motion Regarding Amendment to Indigenous Solidarity Policy 2020-04-02](#)
--**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- d. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Committee Terms of Reference 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- e. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Equity Policy 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- f. [Motion Regarding a Student Engagement Plan 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- g. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Committee Terms of Reference 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- h. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Committee Terms of Reference 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- i. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Governance 2020-04-02](#)
--**POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Director Gwiazda-Amsel states that this should not be approved in its current form as in its appendices it links to documents that are currently held in Director Gwiazda-Amsel's personal Gmail accounts google drive, therefore this motion should be amended before approved.



This motion is postponed until the next Board of Directors meeting.

- j. [Motion Regarding SSMU Policy on Accessible Education and Academics 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- k. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Human Resources Committee Terms of Reference 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- l. [Motion Regarding Student Concerns about the OSD 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- m. [Motion Regarding History SSMU 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Fakhri asks what happens when the Council mandates the SSMU to form a new position, and asks how they would handle that as a Board. Director Gwiazda-Amsel says that based on their structures, the Executive Committee is tasked with day-to-day operations between meetings of the Board of Directors, and this is not something the Board needs to worry about. Director Gwiazda-Amsel explains that if the SSMU is mandated to carry out a certain task, in absence of further specification, it is generally understood that it will be the Executive Committee or a delegated committee of Council, if they have more expertise in that area.

Director Fakhri says he was speaking more about full-time positions, where their salaries may be higher than usual, and if the Board would be required to look into those financial matters. Director Gwiazda-Amsel says the Board can, at its discretion, vote down a motion and return it to the Legislative Council with the appropriate reasoning behind it. Director Gwiazda-Amsel says that the Board can decide where they want the budget to come from, but if they do not, then that can probably be decided by the Executive Committee.

Director Lametti asks about the status of the motion that mandated the President on sustainability considerations and that they did not misappropriate resources, as well as the motion that was previously passed that stipulated that all motions regarding investments be handled by the VP Finance directly.

VP Finance explains that his understanding of that motion was that it mandated the President to take a look into that proposition, and not to formally endorse or cross it out. VP Finance says that part of this was to look at how much it will cost in terms of human resources, or if they already have resources in terms of staff.

This motion is unanimously approved.

- n. [Motion Regarding Safe Sidewalks 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**



- o. [Motion Regarding the Accessibility of Council Documents 2020-04-02](#) --
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED
- p. [Motion to Condemn the Present Form of the Policy on Harassment and Discrimination Prohibited by Law 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- q. [Motion Regarding the Creation of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Diversity of SSMU Events 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- r. [Report-Services Review Committee 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- s. [Report-Clubs Committee 2020-04-02](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

6. Email Approvals

There are no email approvals.

7. Minutes for Approval

- a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2020-03-19 -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

8. Motions for Approval

There are no motions for approval.

9. For Discussion

There are no discussion items.

10. Confidential Session: **18:27**

The Board of Directors entered into Confidential Session at 18:27.

11. Adjournment: **20:03**

Bryan Buraga, President