



SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

June 25, 2020

The Board of Directors emergency meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 19:00.

Present: Lauren Hill (Chair, non-voting), Jemark Earle (Officer), Brooklyn Frizzle (Officer), Maheen Akter (Officer), Gifford Marpole (Officer), Paige Collins (Member-at-Large), André Lametti (Legislative Councillor), Mustafa Fakhri (Legislative Councillor), Rohan Bhutkar (Legislative Councillor), Adin Chan (Legislative Councillor), Ana Paula Sanchez (Member-at-Large), Daniel Dufour (General Manager, non-voting), Michal Chernov (Governance Manager, non-voting), Iris He (International Student Representative, non-voting), Jonah Levitt (Member-at-Large), Jack Kline (Member-at-Large, arrived at 18:45)

Absent:

1. Call to Order: **18:21**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:21.

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**

There are no changes to the agenda. The agenda is approved unanimously.

4. Executive Committee Report

Director Earle presents the report of the Executive Committee. Director Bhutkar asks about the nature of SSMU's agreement with the Department of Physics. Director Frizzle replies that a group of students conducting a climate equity survey were requesting help conducting their research, and this led to an amendment of a SSMU staff member's job description to include consulting for this kind of research, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was drafted to outline this relationship.



5. Motions for Approval

- a. Motion Regarding An Interim Provision for Amendments to the Human Resources Committee Terms of Reference 2020-06-25 -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Fakih presents the motion on behalf of the HR Committee. The motion adjusts the composition of the committee to add the newly hired HR Manager and the change to the HR Director's title to the committee, as well as clarifying which members hold a voting position. Director Fakih continues that as this is a change to a committee's terms of reference that it must be ratified by the Legislative Council, but as they are not in session during the summer, they have come to the Board for an interim provision. They state that one of the Executives will present this to the Legislative Council later in the year. Director Fakih states that having more full-time staff on the committee will help the Society make better HR decisions. Director Levitt adds that from the discussions they have had with other Directors, sometimes they don't quite understand the day-to-day office environment, which further the case for more full-time staff on the committee.

Director Bhutkar moves to approve this motion by unanimous consent. There is no opposition.

The motion is unanimously approved.

6. For Discussion

- a. Motion regarding proposal for History SSMU (passed at Legislative Council 2020-04-02)

Director Earle states that they had a conversation with a coordinator of the Discover McGill Project, and that they stated the creation of a new department would not be the most appropriate solution, as stated in the motion.. Director Earle states that the coordinator suggested hiring somebody to go through the SSMU archives and digitize the remaining documents, and as this work is already being done by a member of staff at the SSMU.

Director Earle inquires if there was a better alternative to this motion. Director Lametti states that a similar discussion occurred at the Legislative Council last year, and since the motion gives responsibility to the President of the Society, they see no reason why the mandate of this motion cannot be fulfilled by allowing the President to pursue the option that they see as the best fit. Director Frizzle states that just because a motion was passed late in a Council meeting does not mean that it is less valid than another motion.

Director Sanchez agrees with Director Lametti, but believes that this is best served by delegation to the Vice-President (External). They also state that this department would not necessarily be apolitical



given the nature of the work of the SSMU. Director Chan states that they believe that this motion does important work, and that Discover McGill project doesn't necessarily focus on the SSMU, which is the most important part of this motion. Director Earle clarifies that the Discover McGill project is actually run by the SSMU. Director Bhutkar states that they recall the initial goal being a separate department that acted as an archivist. This would be a long term goal given the institutional knowledge that it requires, and that this project is more exploratory in nature. As such, the President can explore different alternatives as necessary. Director Lametti concurs, and states that the only constraint is that there needs to be a proposal that allows anyone to have a contact from which they can get information about the SSMU. Director Frizzle states that this is a useful motion, and that in this case the Board and Executives should yield to the Legislative Council and create a proposal for the Legislative Council. They disagree that it would be better suited under the Vice President External portfolio, and that they believe *History SSMU* is a good name.

Director Sanchez asks how this department would be different from the Governance Manager. The Chair replies that this would remove some of the archival work from the Governance Manager and create another student job. The Governance Manager continues that this is to ensure that there is always someone at the SSMU who can provide institutional memory, and that it was passed at Council to provide a timeline for future years. Director Fakh states that the Engineering Undergraduate Society has a Wiki page that stores lots of information and is accessible by anyone, and that the SSMU could provide pages with summaries of important events. Director Bhutkar states that moving forwards, it is best for the President to begin looking into ideas and proposals for fulfilling this motion and bringing those to the Legislative Council.

Director Frizzle asks if it would be worth adding consultations into the process outlines in the motion. The Chair responds to Director Frizzle, however the response is inaudible due to issues with their internet connection. Director Fakh states that this may also be relevant to the VP Internal portfolio. Director Earle states that they will be doing consultations when working on this project.

b. McGill Debating Union Constitution

Director Atker states that the Board needs to approve the new Constitution for the McGill Debating Union (MDU), and that these amendments had been sent to the wrong email and had not been finalized as a result. Director Atker states that this is time sensitive as the club is operating over the summer, and normally they would not ask the Board to circumvent the Clubs Committee or Legislative Council. The amendments include new positions and an equity policy.

Director Bhutkar asks if it would be possible to approve these changes in the interim and then have the club go through the regular process in the Fall. Director Atker responds in the affirmative and states that they will send the motion via email. Director Lametti asks if all of the relevant steps to amendment had been followed, and why a policy is being included in the constitution. Director Atker states that every step has been followed, and is unsure why the policy is being added to the



constitution. Director Frizzle asks if it is known why the MDU decided to remove their chair of French Debates. Director Atker states that they do not know. Director Lametti states that given the way the equity policy is written is far better as a bylaw, as opposed to being in the constitution, and asks Director Atker to suggest this to the MDU.

7. Confidential Session: **19:01**

The Board enters a confidential session at 19:01.

8. Adjournment: **20:46**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Earle', written over a horizontal line.

Jemark Earle, President

APPROVED