



# SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

May 7, 2020

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) was held by teleconference on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 18:00.

Present: Lauren Hill (Chair, non-voting), Bryan Buraga (Officer), Sanchi Bhalla (Officer), Adam Gwiazda-Amsel (Officer), Billy Kawasaki (Officer), Sam Haward (Officer, non-voting), Madeline Wilson (Officer, non-voting), Rohan Bhutkar (Legislative Councillor), André Lametti (Legislative Councillor), Jonah Levitt (Member-at-Large), Ana Paula Sanchez (Member-at-Large), Mustafa Fakhri (Legislative Councillor), Jack Kline (Member-at-Large, arrived at 18:07), Adin Chan (Legislative Councillor), Paige Collins (Member-at-Large, arrived at 18:07), Daniel Dufour (General Manager, non-voting), Michal Chernov (Governance Manager, non-voting), Iris He (International Student Representative, non-voting)

Absent:

1. Call to Order: **18:03**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:03.

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 -- **APPROVED**

The agenda is adopted.

4. Report of the Executive Committee

Director Buraga delivers the report of the Executive Committee.

Director Lametti asks whether or not the approval of Dialogue for SSMU Staff, Casual Staff and Directors was free. Director Buraga responds that it is a free trial until the end of August.



5. Minutes

- a. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2020-04-02 -- **APPROVED**

The minutes are approved without changes.

**Director Sanchez and Director Kline arrive at 18:07**

6. Motions for Approval

- a. Motion to approve \$2,750 of additional funding to Midnight Kitchen for Programming for COVID-19 -- **APPROVED**

Director Kawasaki explains that Midnight Kitchen reached out looking for additional funding in light of the COVID-19 situation. The funding would be used to double their food bank reach, as well as doubling the number of meals that they can prepare for delivery. They would like to do more to help the community, and the Board has been provided with a copy of their proposed budget. VP Finance specifies that this would come from the Campus Life fund which has approximately \$10,000 remaining this year, \$7,000 of which has already been set aside to support Nightline's projects in 2020-2021 in exchange for them paying the cost of their rent while the University Centre is closed. This is a restricted fund and would help Midnight Kitchen operate over the summer. There are funds available to do it at this level but it would not be possible to go above this amount.

Director Gwiazda-Amsel asks why this couldn't be done by having Midnight Kitchen run a deficit in the short term, which would be offset when fees are collected in the Fall. Given that the University Centre will be reopening, it is anticipated that there will be a surplus next year. VP Finance replies that this is possible given that the money is coming from the same bank account either way and it would be possible to book a deficit temporarily. This makes Midnight Kitchen's bookkeeping very difficult over the summer and VP Finance believes that the SSMU does have a responsibility to take on additional costs that departments are incurring in order to support our community. This a gesture of goodwill in line with other things that the SSMU is currently doing such as funding the campaigns department and reimbursing clubs for events that have been cancelled (due to COVID-19).

Director Lametti asks if there would be any other uses for these funds, and whether or not there is another project or service that needs this money. VP Finance responds that the \$10,000 figure takes into account other applications to the fund that haven't yet been paid out. Applications to reimburse clubs from the Campus Life fund will be directed to the Club Fund.

Director Buraga moves that the Board approve this motion by unanimous consent. Director Gwiazda-Amsel expresses opposition. The Speaker clarifies that since there is opposition to vote by unanimous consent, voting will be conducted through roll-call.



**Voting Procedure:**

In favour: Director Buraga, Director Bhalla, Director Kawasaki, Director Bhutkar, Director Sanchez, Director Chan, Director Collins

Opposed: Director Gwiazda-Amsel, Director Lametti

Abstaining: Director Levitt, Director Fakih, Director Kline

The motion is approved.

7. For Discussion

There are no items for discussion.

8. Confidential Session

The Board enters confidential session at 18:13

9. Adjournment: **20:19**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jemark Earle', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jemark Earle, President

APPROVED