



SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

October 15, 2020

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 18:30.

Present: Lauren Hill (Chair, non-voting), Jemark Earle (Officer), Brooklyn Frizzle (Officer), Maheen Akter (Officer), Gifford Marpole (Officer), André Lametti (Legislative Councillor), Rohan Bhutkar (Legislative Councillor), Jonah Levitt (Member-at-Large), Ana Paula Sanchez (Member-at-Large), Paige Collins (Member-at-Large), Adin Chan (Legislative Councillor), Daniel Dufour (General Manager, non-voting), Iris He (International Student Representative, non-voting), Michal Chernov (Governance Manager, non-voting), Wing Wong (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Jack Kline (Member-at-Large, arrived at 18:40), Mustafa Fakhri (Legislative Councillor),

Absent: Sam Haward (Recording Secretary, non-voting), Ayo Ogunremi (Officer, non-voting)

1. Call to Order: **18:35**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:35.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair presents the Land Acknowledgment.

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 UNANIMOUSLY**

Director Levitt asks if there will be a Nominating Committee in public session. The Parliamentarian responds that there is not.

[The Board enters a confidential session at 18:37.]

[The Board returns from confidential session at 18:49.]

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



4. Executive Committee Report

Director Earle presents the report of the Executive Committee. They highlight the approval of the Communications Manager, leasing a vehicle to help Midnight Kitchen and hiring decisions for SSMU Services.

There are no questions.

5. Email Approvals

There were no email approvals.

6. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification

The Board resolves to approve motions 6.c to 6.f by unanimous consent.

- a. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda 2020-09-08](#) -- **APPROVED**

Director Lametti notes that this had been postponed due to clauses regarding language for options on ballots. Director Earle responds that 'None of these' is due to candidates appearing in random orders on the ballot. Director Lametti asks for clarification that this will result in preferential ballots, with candidates appearing in a random order with an option to vote for 'None of these'. Director Earle believes that this is the case. The Governance Manager responds that this is the case, and that it only applies to elections with multiple candidates.

Director Lametti moves to table this motion for the time being. There is no opposition. The motion is taken from the table following debate on item 6.g.

Director Lametti states that their interpretation of the Internal Regulations is that a referendum with more than two options should be done by ranked ballot. They ask how this can meet the standards set by the university for clarity of fee questions. Director Earle states that the Deputy Electoral Officer states that this is solely for candidates with multiple options. Director Lametti states that they want to confirm that this will be acceptable for elections reviewed by the University, if it is, then there is less of an issue. They state that it is not good that ballots will be more complicated.

The motion is approved unanimously.

- b. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Equity Policy to Ensure Equitable Communications Practices 2020-09-24](#) -- **APPROVED**



Director Lametti states that this motion has returned with only one minor change despite being sent back by the Board, and that they will vote no on this motion. Director Frizzle states that they believe the Legislative Council has made itself clear, and in the interest of not sending this motion back and forth between bodies it is the duty of the Board to ratify this motion. Director Lametti agrees that it is bad practice, and that they respect the decision of the Legislative Council, but the number of times a motion is passed does not make it more compelling. They continue that their decision to vote no is due to their responsibility to the Society as a Director. Director Frizzle responds that the Legislative Council has come to the conclusion that this motion is appropriate, and that they did not believe the Board's concerns were not sufficient to warrant changes. They do not believe that the Board should have failed to ratify this motion when it was first presented.

Director Lametti states that they understand that the Legislative Council is the representative body of the Society, but that the Board has an obligation to review motions that present operational challenges to the Society. Director Frizzle states that this motion has no legal or financial implications and thus should not fall under the purview of the Board. They state that they believe it is a purely political motion.

Voting procedure:

In favour: Director Earle, Director Frizzle, Director Atker, Director Marpole

Opposed: Director Lametti

Abstaining: Director Bhutkar, Director Levitt, Director Sanchez, Director Collins, Director Chan, Director Kline, Director Fakih

The motion is approved.

The Board resolves to approve items 6c to 6f by unanimous consent.

- c. [Motion Condemning the GNL Québec-Gazoduq Énergie Saguenay Project 2020-10-08](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- d. [Motion Regarding Increase and Scope of the Mental Health Fee 2020-10-08](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- e. [Motion Regarding Renewal of the SSMU Ambassador Fee 2020-10-08](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- f. [Motion Regarding the Renewal of the Musician's Collective Fee 2020-10-08](#) -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**



g. [Motion Regarding the SSMU Daycare Fee for Fall 2020 Referendum 2020-10-08](#) --
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Director Marpole suggests amending the motion to reflect the actual current value of the Daycare Fee. The current Daycare Fee is \$2.72, rather than \$2.50, as indicated in the motion. This is approved without opposition.

The motion is approved unanimously.

7. Motions for Approval

There are no motions for approval.

8. For Discussion

There are no items for discussion.

9. Confidential Session: **19:12**

The Board enters a confidential session at 19:12.

10. Adjournment: **19:35**

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

Jemark Earle, President