



SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

December 10, 2020

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 18:30.

Present: Lauren Hill (Chair, non-voting), Brooklyn Frizzle (Officer), Maheen Akter (Officer), Gifford Marpole (Officer), Chip Smith (Legislative Councillor), Paige Collins (Legislative Councillor), Alex Karasick (Legislative Councillor), Benson Wan (Legislative Councillor), Rohan Bhutkar (Member-at-Large), Ana Paula Sanchez (Member-at-Large), Addy Parsons (International Student Representative, non-voting), General Manager (non-voting), Governance Manager (non-voting)

Absent: Beatrice Mackie (Member-at-Large), Ayo Ogunremi (Officer, non-voting), Jemark Earle (Officer), Sam Haward (Recording Secretary, non-voting), Adin Chan (Member-at-Large)

1. Call to Order: **18:37**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:37.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair presents the 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 UNANIMOUSLY**

The Human Resources Director introduces themselves to the Board of Directors. They explain their role, and note that they sit on the Board's Human Resources Committee.

4. Executive Committee Report

Director Marpole presents the report of the Executive Committee. They highlight the approval of hiring casual staff for monitoring social media and live streaming Legislative Council meetings. There were also approvals for external translation for a SSMU statement regarding racial equity and inclusion,



signing onto an open letter addressed to the university, reassessments of staff roles, hiring of a Gender and Sexuality Coordinator, point-of-sale devices for Gerts, enrolling Executives in the employee assistance program and legal fees.

There are no questions on the report of the Executive Committee.

5. Email Approvals

- a. Motion to approve the 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements 2020-11-30
--UNANIMOUS APPROVAL 2020-11-30

There is no discussion on this item.

6. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification

The Board approves motions 6.a-6.e and motions 6.g-6.i by unanimous consent.

- a. [Motion Regarding the Clarification of an International Political Position 2020-12-03](#) --
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- b. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Committee Terms of Reference 2020-11-19](#) --
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
- c. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the SSMU Positions Book 2020-12-03](#) -- **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
- d. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Timeline of Elections and Referenda 2020-12-03](#)
-- **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
- e. [Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy 2020-11-19](#)
-- **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
- f. [Motion Regarding the Release of Statements and Official Communications 2020-12-03](#)
-- **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Director Bhutkar asks the Executive Committee about the distinction made between the actions of the Executive and actions taken by the Society as a whole. They ask how students can distinguish between the sources of communications issued by the SSMU. Director Frizzle responds that this was something that the Society had done in the past and that statements had been issued on behalf of governing bodies. They state that a solution may be simply to explain which body of the SSMU chose to issue a given statement. They state that they do not want to homogenize the Society into just the actions and opinions of the Executives. It may be possible to add a short sentence clarifying this. Director Bhutkar



responds that their concern is that this can remove some of the accountability from the Executive and Board of Directors as they can deflect criticism from other governing bodies. They state that it is important to raise this concern and ask the rest of the Board for their input. Director Frizzle responds that they understand but are unsure what else could be done other than restricting issuance of statements to the Legislative Council. They believe that this can be mitigated by ensuring that the Executives are consistent in consulting the Legislative Council.

The Board approved motion 6.f by unanimous consent.

- g. [Motion to Adopt a SSMU 5-Year Plan 2020-11-19](#) -- **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
 - h. [Report-Funding Committee 2020-12-03](#) -- **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
 - i. [Budget Revisions Fall 2020 2020-12-03](#) -- **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
7. Minutes for Approval
- a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2020-11-12 -- **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**
 - b. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2020-11-26 -- **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Board approves both sets of minutes by unanimous consent.

8. Motions for Approval

There are no motions for approval.

9. For Discussion

There are no items for discussion.

10. Confidential Session: **18:51**

The Board enters confidential session at 18:51.

11. Adjournment: **20:39**

Jemark Earle, President