



SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

March 18, 2021

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 18:00.

Present: Lauren Hill (Chair, non-voting), Jemark Earle (Officer), Maheen Akter (Officer), Gifford Marpole (Officer), Ayo Ogunremi (Officer, non-voting), 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), Beatrice Mackie (Member-at-Large), Adin Chan (Member-at-Large), Daniel Dufour (General Manager, non-voting, left at 22:35), Addy Parsons (International Student Representative, non-voting), Sam Haward, (Recording Secretary, non-voting)

Absent: Brooklyn Frizzle (Officer)

1. Call to Order: **21:59**

A confidential session was conducted prior to this public session of the Board of Directors. The Chair calls the meeting to order at 21:59.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The SSMU acknowledges that McGill University is situated on the traditional and unceded territory of the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee nations. The SSMU recognizes and respects these nations as the true and constant custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today. Further, the SSMU commits to and respects the traditional laws and customs of these territories.

3. Adoption of the Agenda — **ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY**

Director Wan moves item 10a, and to postpone item 5 to a later meeting. The agenda is adopted unanimously.

4. [Adoption of the Board of Directors Standing Rules 2020-2021](#) — **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Chair states that they have decided to implement a set of standing rules for the remainder of this Board's term. They review the rules governing meetings of the Board of Directors.



Question:

Director Karasick asks if it would be possible to suspend the rules to extend the time for a discussion more than once.

Answer:

The Chair responds in the affirmative, but they will use their discretion if an item is taking a significant amount of time.

The standing rules are approved unanimously.

5. Presentation from Alexis Zhou

This presentation is postponed to a later date.

6. Executive Committee Report

Director Earle presents the report of the Executive Committee. They note signing onto a petition regarding vaccines for all and contract extensions for staff.

There are no questions on the report.

7. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification
 - a. [Motion Regarding a Policy on Harmful Military Technology 2021-01-28](#) — **APPROVED**

The Chair states that the changes to the motion were conducted by the mover and seconder of the motion, on the advice of the Steering Committee. Director Karasick states that they have created some amendments to the motion that they would like to recommend to the Legislative Council, and would like for the Board to overturn this motion.

The Board takes a brief recess to review these amendments.

Director Earle states that it has taken nearly a month to get to this stage, and states that sending this back and forth is becoming unnecessary. The Chair suggests approving it by email if it is sent by the Legislative Council again. VP External clarifies that the concern is regarding what would happen if the Legislative Council chooses not to approve any of these changes. The Chair states that while it would be bad practice for the Board not to ratify this motion after returning it to the Legislative Council twice, the Board has no obligation to do so.

VP External states that they don't believe the Board should be providing amendments to the political content of the motion. Director Karasick states that the concerns they raised at the Legislative Council were not able to be provided as amendments, and that is why they are being presented to the Board. The goal of this is so that the motion can be sent back and passed by the Board of Directors, and they



hope that these amendments allow this policy to be passed. Director Earle asks if these amendments are friendly to VP External. VP External responds that they would not be.

Director Earle suggests approving this now, and then bringing the amendments to the Legislative Council at a later date, and once these amendments have been discussed outside of meetings.

Directors Smith, Karasick, Wan, Sanchez abstain from voting.

8. Minutes for Approval

- a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2021-03-04 — **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

VP External provides an amendment to the minutes. There is no opposition to the amendment. The minutes are approved unanimously.

9. Motions for Approval

- a. Motion to ratify the Reference re Applicability to the Society's Services of the 2016 Reference re Legality of the BDS Motion and Similar Motions 2021-03-08 — **POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Chief Justice was not available to discuss this item at this meeting.

10. For Discussion

- a. Updates regarding the Divest for Human Rights Policy

Director Earle states that this matter has been submitted to the Judicial Board, and there is a call for intervenors being sent tomorrow. The hearing will occur between April 7th and April 13th.

Question:

Director Smith asks Director Earle if they have answered the questions sent by the Divest for Human Rights Coalition.

Answer:

Director Earle responds that this will be done after the minutes from the meeting of March 3rd are completed.

There is no further discussion on this item.



11. Confidential Session

There is no further confidential business at this meeting.

12. Adjournment: **22:40**

The meeting is adjourned at 22:40.

Darshan Daryanani

Darshan Daryanani, President

APPROVED