



SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

November 4, 2021

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 18:00.

Present: Alexandre Ashkir (Chair, non-voting), Claire Downie (Officer), Karla Heisele Cubilla (Officer), Sarah Paulin (Officer), Sacha Delouvrier (Officer, non-voting), Paige Collins (Council Member), Benson Wan (Council Member), Ghania Javed (Council Member) Beatrice Mackie (Member-at-Large), Addy Parsons (International Student Representative, non-voting), Alex Karasick (Council Member, arrived at 18:08)

Absent: Eric Sader (Officer), Darshan Daryanani (Officer, non-voting), General Manager (non-voting)

1. Call to Order: **18:06**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:06 on November 4, 2021.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair presents the 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. Attendance

The Chair notes the absences of Director Sader, Officer Daryanani and the General Manager.

4. Adoption of the Agenda --**ADOPTED**

The Chair presents the Agenda.

Director Karasick motions to adopt the agenda by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Wan.



The Agenda is adopted.

5. Announcements

Director Karasick makes a brief announcement. He notes that all the Respondent documents have been submitted to the Judicial Board pertaining to the SPHR v SSMU petition. He hopes the case will be resolved before the end of his term.

6. Executive Committee Public Report --**ADOPTED**

Director Paulin presents the report. The SSMU has hired coordinators for website management to assist with the development of the Student Portal. The Executives hired MSERT First Aid Instructors, Community Engagement Coordinator. The Executive Committee has also approved the job description for an additional Porter for the University Centre building, hired a Gerts Administrative Assistant and an additional External Affairs Coordinator. A laptop was also purchased for a staff member.

Question:

Director Mackie asks about hiring the new Porter for the building, and inquires if that will impact the building hours.

Answer:

Director Paulin responds that bars must close by 3:00AM in Quebec, so the building hours will be extended until 1:00 or 2:00AM.

The report is adopted.

7. Email Approvals

- a. [Motion Regarding Condemnation of Bill 2 2021-10-28](#) 2021-11-01 -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 2021-11-01**

The motion was approved unanimously by email on November 1, 2021.

- b. [Motion Regarding Nominations to the Society's Board of Directors 2021-10-18 \(referred from Consultative Forum 2021-10-18\)](#) 2021-11-01 -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 2021-11-01**

The motion was approved unanimously by email on November 1, 2021.



- c. [Motion Regarding SSMU Referral Services Fee Referendum Question 2021-10-28](#)
2021-11-01 -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 2021-11-01**

The motion was approved unanimously by email on November 1, 2021.

- d. [Motion Regarding Safety Services Fee Increase Referendum Question 2021-10-28](#)
2021-11-01 -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 2021-11-01**

The motion was approved unanimously by email on November 1, 2021.

- e. [Motion Regarding MUSTBUS Fee-Levy 2021-10-28](#) 2021-11-01 -**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 2021-11-01**

The motion was approved unanimously by email on November 1, 2021.

- f. [Motion Regarding CKUT Existence Referendum Question 2021-10-28](#) 2021-11-01 --
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 2021-11-01

The motion was approved unanimously by email on November 1, 2021.

- g. [Motion Regarding QPIRG Existence Referendum Question 2021-10-28](#) 2021-11-01 --
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 2021-11-01

The motion was approved unanimously by email on November 1, 2021.

- h. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on an Increase to the McGill Students' Nightline Service Fee 2021-10-28](#) 2021-11-01 -- **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 2021-11-01**

The motion was approved unanimously by email on November 1, 2021.

- i. Motion to approve the Activities Night 2.0 Fair event taking place on November 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 2021 with the estimated budget of \$11,000 2021-10-26 --**APPROVED 2021-10-26**

The motion was approved by email on October 26, 2021. Director Karasick did not vote.

8. Minutes for Approval

- a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2021-06-17 --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

The Chair presents the Minutes from June 17, 2021.



9. Motions for Approval

- a. Motion to appoint the Vice-President (Student Life) as the interim Signing Authority during the absence of the Vice President (Finance) --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Heisele Cubilla explains that the VP Finance will be out of office next week, and the Executive Committee decided that the Director would be the interim Signing Authority during VP Finance's absence. She further notes that she is the signing authority for student groups and contracts at this time.

There are no questions and no debate on this motion.

Director Mackie motions to approve by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Downie.

The motion is unanimously approved.

- b. Motion Regarding Amendments to the Human Resources (HR) Committee Terms of Reference 2021-11-04 --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Karasick presents the motion. An ad hoc committee has been appointed by the Board and has been meeting for approximately two (2) months to review the future operations of the Human Resources (HR), including the Human Resources Committee. These changes would enable HR to be more effective and efficient.

Question Period:

Question:

Director Wan asks about the reporting schedule to the Board of Directors and asks if this would be effective.

Answer:

Director Karasick responds that the HR Committee will be meeting more often during the month in order to be able to keep an active track of HR matters and to inform the Board of these matters.

A section of the minutes was redacted due to the confidential nature of information.



There are no further questions.

Debate Period:

There is no debate.

Director Wan motions to vote by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Paulin. There is no opposition.

The motion is approved unanimously.

c. Motion Regarding the Dissolving of the Building and Operations Management Committee (BOMCOM) 2021-11-04 --**APPROVED**

Director Paulin presents the motion and explains that she has been in communication with the Building Director. She notes that the Building and Operations Management Committee (BOMCOM) has not been updated for a few years and the committee has not been doing the work it is responsible for, which has caused an increase in workload for the Building Services department. The Building Director has connections and resources when finding tenants for the University Centre (UC) and the committee has had trouble with scheduling meetings. One of the concerns with dissolving the BOMCOM is that there will be less student representation, but it does not seem that the committee was operating with student input. It would also streamline the process of finding tenants for the UC and the individuals who have been consulted on this motion, agree with these comments.

Question Period:

Question:

Director Wan notes that many committees of the Legislative Council have not been meeting or presenting reports and have been inactive within the SSMU, and inquires if this will set a precedent for dissolving inactive committees.

Answer:

Director Paulin responds that it will not set a precedent for the committees, but this is a logistical process, and student input is not as necessary for this committee, as it would be for other committees at SSMU. She notes that she will continue on reviewing and reforming different committees within the SSMU to make them more functional.

Director Karasick is concerned that the Executive Committee and Building Director will be the ones who are tasked with most of the BOMCOM's responsibilities, should it be dissolved, and he would



prefer a formal committee to be responsible for these matters. The committee would be dedicated solely for building matters. This would also avoid conflicts of interest, as could often happen within the Executive Committee.

Director Paulin clarifies that all decisions will be made by the Board of Directors and presented with a report from the Building Director. The Executive Committee will be supporting the Building Director and providing suggestions and recommendations to the Board of Directors, but would not have decision-making authority.

Director Downie suggests clarifying this in the motion itself. The delays with BOMCOM from this summer were detrimental to the SSMU and it would be ideal to ensure that the Building Director is supported and has the resources necessary to continue to make the SSMU the best it can be.

Director Paulin clarifies in the motion that the Building Director would be tasked with finding tenants and submitting reports to the Board of Directors to this effect.

Debate Period:

There is no debate.

Director Downie motions to vote by roll call, seconded by Director Heisele Cubilla. There is no opposition.

Vote by Roll Call:

In favour: Director Downie, Director Heisele Cubilla, Director Paulin, Director Collins, Director Wan, Director Javed

Opposed: None

Abstain: Director Karasick

Director Mackie did not vote on this motion.

The motion is approved.

- d. Motion Regarding Amendments to the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee Terms of Reference 2021-11-04 – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Paulin presents the motion with amendments to the Comprehensive Governance Review Committee. She notes the amendments include the change of the name of the committee, chairs, responsibilities and membership. The Committee was previously chaired by the Governing Documents Researcher, which is a position that no longer exists; they are proposing to have two co-chairs, the VP



Internal Affairs and Policy and Advocacy Coordinator. The membership has also been amended to reflect the workload of the committee, and the final amendment is to remove legal consultations, which typically are approved by the Executive Committee. The committee would also help with promoting governance-related events such as Referendum periods and General Assemblies.

Question Period:

There are no questions.

Debate Period:

There is no debate.

Director Wan motions to vote by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Heisele Cubilla. There is no opposition.

The motion is unanimously approved.

10. For Discussion

a. Update on plausibility of a vaccine mandate in the SSMU office

Director Downie provides an update on the vaccine mandate for the SSMU Office and notes that based on an initial consultation with SSMU's legal counsel, it does not seem that a vaccine mandate for SSMU employees is legal at this time. If there are other measures that can be implemented to stop the spread of COVID-19, these should be exhausted first. The SSMU already has masking requirements, social distancing and other measures. Director Downie does not believe it is worth pursuing this route at this time, but reiterates that this is not a legal opinion or advice as she is not a lawyer.

b. Creation of Board of Directors Steering Committee

Director Paulin explains that the Legislative Council has a Steering Committee that reviews and prepares the Agenda and documentation. She hopes to create an accountability or steering committee for the Board of Directors that would be composed of the President, Chair, Governance Manager and a Director would debrief after each Board meeting and discuss the action items that need to be resolved. There have been situations where the action items are forgotten and this can cause issues with timelines or delays, which she would like to prevent moving forward. Director Paulin asks the Board members what their feedback is pertaining to this and if the Board has name recommendations for the committee.



Question:

Director Mackie asks for a clarification, noting that there have been situations where Executives or specific individuals have not been fulfilling their mandates and inquires if the Steering Committee is tasked with this responsibility at the Legislative Council level, whereas there is no such mechanism at the Board level.

Answer:

Director Paulin responds that she is not certain for the Legislative Council, but notes that the Accountability Committee is tasked with the responsibility of holding Executives and Councillors accountable. She further states that this is something that can be brought for discussion to the Steering Committee.

International Student Representative Parsons notes that the name of the Steering Committee would not be an appropriate name in a governance setting. In this case, it would be possible to mandate certain individuals to follow up on action items, but she is not in favour of a creation of an additional steering committee to work with the Board of Directors.

Director Mackie is in favour of having an accountability mechanism in place, but she is not in agreement of the creation of a committee of a few people, but notes that it will shift the burden on others, rather than those who are mandated with tasks. She explains that this mechanism should be placed in a different body, such as the Accountability Committee.

Question:

Director Wan is in favour of the concept of such a committee, but if it pertains to an accountability portfolio, he inquires if a currently existing committee or portfolio would be able to take on this role, such as the Human Resources Committee or Accountability Committee, as previously mentioned by Director Mackie.

Answer:

Director Paulin responds in agreement with the comments stated above.

Question:

Director Paulin asks the Chair if the Accountability Committee is a joint committee of the Board and Council, or if this could potentially fall under its purview.

Answer:



The Chair responds that depending on the vision of the Board for this responsibility, this would need to be verified for the committee. In addition, the committee has not yet met due to lack of members at large.

Director Paulin further notes that there are confidential mandates and tasks that cannot be discussed or delegated to the Accountability Committee due to their sensitive nature.

Director Mackie further notes that if any tasks are assigned during Board meetings, it can be added for a check in at the next Board meeting for review, but worries that this may increase the length of meetings.

Director Paulin states that the Chair could presumably send the different tasks to Directors, as required, and follow up on these at the next Board meeting, if he is comfortable to do so.

The Chair suggests a task spreadsheet to be created to the Board and send reminders to the Board, similar to how the Legislative Council operates.

There is no further discussion.

11. Confidential Session: **18:51**

The Board of Directors enters into a confidential session at 18:51.

12. Farewell

The Board returns to Public Session at 21:28.

Small pleasantries are exchanged between Board members during this item.

The Chair wishes everyone best of luck in their future endeavours and notes that he has enjoyed working with the Board thus far. Board members display the “heart emoji” in the Zoom call.

13. Adjournment: **21:31**

The Board of Directors meeting is adjourned at 21:31, as moved by Director Mackie and seconded by Director Wan.

Éric Sader, Vice-President (Finance)