



SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

December 2, 2021

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 18:00.

Present: Alexandre Ashkir (Chair, non-voting), Eric Sader (Officer), Claire Downie (Officer), Karla Heisele Cubilla (Officer), Sarah Paulin (Officer), Sacha Delouvrier (Officer, non-voting), Ghania Javed (Council Member), Yara Coussa (Council Member), Benson Wan (Council Member), Charlotte Gurung (Council Member)

Absent: Darshan Daryanani (Officer, non-voting), Daniel Dufour (General Manager, non-voting)

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

The Chair calls the meeting to order on December 2, 2021 at 18:06.

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 absence of Officer Daryanani and the General Manager.

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

Director Sader motions to adopt the Agenda, seconded by Director Wan.

The Agenda is adopted.

5. Executive Committee Public Report



Director Paulin presents the report of the Executive Committee. She states that the Bill 2 statement was approved, the Committee hired a new Porter, and had Building Ambassadors assisting with the building, the Gerts manager and Building Director. VP External Affairs took a much-needed vacation. The Executives approved job descriptions for Queer McGill. Approval for Hype Night Fac-O edition will be coming soon. They edited other job descriptions and hired an Events Coordinator for SSMU Clubs and Services, to ensure the department runs smoothly.

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

6. Motions for Approval

- a. Motion to ratify the Final Decision: SPHR v SSMU 2021-11-27 –**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Sader presents the updated Judicial Board ruling, following the disagreement at the last ratification attempt. It seems that the fact was taken as an accurate contestation and the final judgment is that their judgment was correct. The previous motion was done in a completely constitutional manner, as such it stands that there was no mistake on behalf of the Board of Directors.

The Chair entertains a question period.

Director Sader motions to approve the motion by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Wan.

The motion passes by unanimous consent. The final decision in SPHR v SSMU is ratified.

- b. Motion to approve \$14,172.87 plus taxes for the purchase of video matrix equipment for Gerts –**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Sader states that the report was provided to him by the Building Director, and it encompasses two (2) options. We are looking to update the Gerts Bar securit to have safety measures in place. There is the choice between two (2) video matrix upgrades, one at a cost of \$10,000 and the other at a cost of over \$14,000. He had a consultation with the Building Director to inquire which option he prefers. The Building Director recommended the more expensive option, but it uses much less space. Gerts is space-limited, and the space where it would be built would be in a booth, so space needs to be maximized. Their other choice would be to build it in an adjacent room, and the room needs to be renovated next year. The use of the adjacent room would be costlier as equipment would need to be removed and then rebuilt. The smaller equipment would be preferable. However, it is the Board's decision, and he states that the SSMU's finances are doing quite well, and the money will be coming out of the Building Fund, a healthy fund, and Director Sader has no concerns about the affordability of



the project. Director Sader recommends the more expensive option of \$14,000, as he prefers to do things right the first time for this equipment.

Debate Period:

Director Sader states that due to the lack of discussion, he assumes Board members are in favour of the more expensive option. He amends the motion to approve \$14,172.87 plus taxes for the purchase of video matrix equipment for Gerts.

The Chair asks Director Sader to refrain from making assumptions about Board members.

Question:

Director Wan asks whether there have been past instances where a security system would have saved SSMU from financial or legal responsibilities, or if this measure is more prophylactic.

Answer:

Director Sader answers that the system isn't necessarily a video security system, although it can also act as one, it would rather put Gerts in a position where it could offer more services without more employees and provide multimedia services within the bar.

Question:

Director Wan asks if, given that this will cost more to Gerts, fees associated with Gerts will need to increase to compensate for this expense.

Answer:

Director Sader answers that they sell things within reasonable costs, so within that framework, it will not lead to increases in costs, as the money is coming from a healthy fund. It is not a situation where revenue is being drained, it is a fixed expense. It will have no impact on the prices at Gerts.

The Chair states that the motion now reads: "Motion to approve \$14,172.87 plus taxes for the purchase of video security equipment for Gerts."

Director Sader states that the motion should indicate video matrix equipment rather than video security equipment.

Director Javed motions to vote by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Heisele Cubilla.



The motion is unanimously approved.

7. Minutes for Approval

- a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2021-09-09 --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Sader moves to approve the minutes, seconded by Director Coussa.

The minutes are unanimously approved.

8. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification:

- a. [Motion Regarding the Fall 2021 Budget Revision 2021-11-25](#) --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Sader states that the Board extended the due date by a month, so it was due at the end of November. It is a basic update of the Budget Revision, and the thorough update includes a PowerPoint presentation and an Excel sheet. The Budget Revision predicts the Society to have a \$26,000 deficit, which is unlikely to occur because they always underspend their budget and they have a large surplus from last year. One key point of the report is their ability to hire more staff to assist their overworked staff.

Director Sader moves to vote by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Coussa.

The motion is unanimously approved.

- b. [Funding Committee Report 2021-11-25](#) --**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Sader presents the report, which was written by Councillor Saad, a member of the Funding Committee. The report presents some funding requests that were approved, and they have been looking at food inclusion for funding requests. They have been trying to contact groups and will look at the funding guidebook again to ensure requirements for budgets are clearer.

Director Sader motions to vote by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Paulin.

The report is ratified.

9. For Discussion:

- a. Vice-President (Sustainability and Operations)



Director Paulin states that the Board needs to decide whether they want to elect a VP Operations and Sustainability for next year. This position hasn't been active for four (4) years, and they have been discussing with full-time staff and the Policy and Advocacy Coordinator to look at what it would mean to have a VP Operations next year, since the University Centre is open. It may be beneficial. When speaking with full-time staff about the matter, it falls under the Operations portfolio and they don't think it would be beneficial, as many of the VP Operations's tasks fall into their portfolio. Instead, they want to change some of the responsibilities of the current VPs to include the Operations role. For example, the VP Internal Affairs role is small and seen as a "fail-safe" portfolio, therefore putting more operations tasks into that portfolio would be beneficial. If they decide they don't want to elect a VP Operations, they need to present a motion for approval to the Legislative Council. She suggests it would be good to discuss it now and present it at the January 20, 2022 Legislative Council meeting.

Director Cubilla states that she doesn't think it is beneficial to have a VP Operations at this time, after discussing it with full-time staff. The tasks can be divided into other portfolios.

There is no further discussion.

b. Board Audio Recordings Requests and Releases

Director Paulin states that Legislative Council recordings are available and minutes are released on the SSMU website, however this is not done for Board of Directors meetings. This semester, they have been getting a lot of requests for the minutes and recordings of the Board to be posted on the website. She asks if the Board would be willing to publish the recordings and public minutes in the same fashion as the Legislative Council minutes.

The Chair states that they share recordings of Board meetings upon request.

Director Wan asks if they currently have the resources to do this, or if it requires extra work from SSMU employees.

Director Downie states that she thinks this is an excellent idea, and being as transparent as possible is a good move. It seems that they have the capacity to do it, as they do the same for the Legislative Council.

Director Paulin answers that, considering that they no longer have to separate the recordings into public and confidential sessions, they have capacity to do the same for Board meetings.

There is no further discussion.

c. Next meeting date: additional meeting required (Dec. 16)



Director Paulin believes the December 16 meeting date was added by the Governance Manager, because she had concerns she wanted to bring up. She states that the Board could have an additional meeting on December 16 if they feel they need it.

Director Downie states that it would be valuable to meet again before the end of the year, and that some important things may come up.

Director Wan states that they would not be able to make the meeting if it were on December 16, and asks whether it can be changed to the following week. They believe that it would be beneficial to have an additional meeting.

Director Sader states that scheduling a meeting would be wise, and if they discover they don't have enough to discuss, they can cancel the scheduled meeting.

Director Paulin states that Director Wan would not be able to attend the December 16 meeting, and as she knows the meeting falls within exam period, so she understands that people aren't always available since some exams are in the evening. She suggests that they decide when to meet together, because of exams.

There is no further discussion.

- d. Meeting Schedule for Winter 2022
 - i. Day/Time?
 - ii. Once a month?

Director Paulin states that she is not in favour of meeting once a month, since Board meetings are already quite long, and they need to be cut off. She states that the Governance Manager notes that the Board could have meetings during the day rather than at 6:00 PM, so that she could make it.

Director Sader agrees with Director Paulin, and thinks meetings should occur more than once a month. He also thinks that changing the meeting time so that it is during the Executives' work day would be beneficial, although it would be hard to schedule.

Director Downie agrees with what has been said, and thinks that longer meetings are not beneficial. She also thinks that meeting during the day would be better, although it is not feasible for members who are students.

Director Javed echoes Director Downie's sentiments, and states that it would be hard for Councillors who are students to attend during the day. However, she thinks that sending a "when2meet" link for the next semester would be a way to handle it.



Director Wan thinks that although a lot of their agenda items are based on Legislative Council, some items are not, so they believe that an additional meeting would be warranted. He states that they would not be able to attend meetings during the day, as they often don't finish working until 6:00pm.

There is no further discussion.

10. Confidential Session: **19:11**

The Board of Directors enters into a Confidential Session at 19:11.

11. Motion to ratify the Report of the Nominating Committee (Redacted) and the recommendations 2021-12-02 --**POSTPONED INDEFINITELY**

Director Sader motions to postpone this motion indefinitely, seconded by Director Heisele Cubilla.

The motion is postponed indefinitely.

12. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification

a. [Motion Regarding the Absence of the SSMU President 2021-11-25](#) --**POSTPONED INDEFINITELY**

Director Sader states that following the discussions of the Board of Directors, he invokes Section 6 of the Internal Regulations of Governance, Section 1.4, which reads that the Board of Directors should only exercise their power to overturn resolutions of the Legislative Council to protect the legal, financial or operational well-being of the Society. He believes that this applies to this motion, and moves to postpone the motion indefinitely.

The Chair entertains a question period.

Member of the gallery, Councillor Saad, asks Director Sader whether there would be a specific part of the resolution that could be amended over the coming weeks to enable this motion to be passed once again, and be ratified by the Board of Directors, given the previously stated issues.

Director Sader answers that any answer that he would give would be violating the confidentiality of the situation. As such, he cannot give specifics.

Director Sader motions to vote on postponing the motion indefinitely by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Coussa.

The motion is postponed indefinitely.



13. Adjournment: 21:51

The Chair thanks everyone for a great semester.

Director Sader motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded Director Coussa.

The Board of Directors meeting is adjourned at 21:51.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric S".

Éric Sader, Vice-President (Finance)

APPROVED