



SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

January 31, 2022

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Monday, January 31, 2022 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), Benson Wan (Council Member), Charlotte Gurung (Council Member), Yara Coussa (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 at 18:06 on January 31, 2022.

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 takes attendance.

Present are Director Sader, Director Downie, Director Heisele Cubilla, Director Paulin, Officer Delouvrier, Director Javed, Director Wan, Director Gurung, and Director Coussa.

Absent are Officer Daryanani and the General Manager.

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

Director Wan moves agenda item 11. a. to agenda item 5.



With no further additions or modifications, Director Wan moves to adopt the agenda, seconded by Director Coussa.

The Agenda is adopted.

5. Discussion: Mask Distribution

Question:

Director Wan asks how much of the original 10,000 masks have been distributed so far.

Answer:

Director Downie answers that the masks come in packs of ten (10), and she believes they have distributed around 150 packs.

Director Wan confirms that this is around 20% of the inventory.

Director Downie states that she confirmed with the Post-Graduate Student Society (PGSS) that the uptake of masks really took off once eligibility was opened to all students.

Question:

Director Wan asks, with the current distribution process, if all the time slots are full, and if distribution has been at full capacity.

Answer:

Director Downie responds that it depends on the day, she has been able to offer time slots based on her own availability (typically 2-3 hours per day), and there are usually more popular slots. If there is a specific concern, she is open to offer more slots.

Question:

Director Wan is concerned that this is a lot of work for Director Downie alone, and suggests that in the future they could select other people to help out. He continues by asking that, considering that they are still far from reaching the 10,000 mask capacity, if they plan on purchasing more masks, as stated in the motion presented.



Answer:

Director Downie explains that she supports holding off on purchasing masks until they anticipate more supply, but the supply chain is struggling because there are a lot of organizations trying to purchase masks. She suggests purchasing masks in the most popular size (Medium), but she is open to having a meeting with Director Wan about this. She has also been able to reach out to PGSS for help, since they started their mask distribution earlier.

There is no further discussion.

6. Confidential Session: **18:15**

The Board of Directors enters into a Confidential Session at 18:15.

7. Questions from Constituents

[The Board of Directors returns to Public Session at 20:23.]

The Chair reads out questions submitted from Constituents.

Question for Director Sader:

“Would it be possible to give a brief overview of the Society’s finances? Are there any financial concerns the Society is currently facing?”

Answer:

Director Sader answers that the Society’s finances are healthy, and a lot of their expenses are usually events and operations focused, and because of the pandemic they have been able to accumulate a surplus on their expenses. He sees this as a downside, because money is not being sent to students, because they cannot run events. They are looking at ways to spend the money, and to benefit the student experience and offer more events. There are no financial concerns. From a sustainability perspective, that is not always the case. If they went back to in-person activities, costs would increase, because of inflation and because they had to increase their staff due to increased operations. Because of that, there is still the possibility of requiring a base fee increase, if they go back fully in-person.

Question:

“Why is the President still being paid when other student groups are being asked for an audit?”

Answer:



Director Sader answers that they cannot confirm nor deny if the President is still being paid, and audits are to ensure that groups are not doing illegal activity with money, which has nothing to do with the President's salary. He notes this is a leading question.

There are no further questions.

8. Executive Committee Public Report – **APPROVED**

Director Paulin presents the Executive Committee Public Report. The Committee approved updates to many job descriptions, more hires, hired a Human Resources Coordinator, and a Website Project Coordinator. The Executive Committee hired an Interim Human Resources Director and Consultant to help them with Human Resources (HR) and hired people for the External Affairs portfolio, which is growing. The Executives released a statement on mask distribution and made some changes to the Student Life portfolio.

Director Coussa motions to approve the report.

Director Sader seconds the motion to approve.

Seeing no opposition, the report is approved.

9. Email Approvals:

- a. Motion to ratify the [Motion Regarding the Vice-President \(Sustainability and Operations\) 2022-01-20](#) 2022-01-24 – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED 2022-01-24**

The motion was unanimously approved by email on January 24, 2022.

10. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification

Director Wan motions to put items 10.a until 10.d by block, seconded by Director Coussa seconds the motion.

The motions are unanimously approved.

- a. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the SSMU Legislative Council Standing Rules 2021-2022 2022-01-20](#) – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**



- b. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Steering Committee Terms of Reference 2022-01-20](#) – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- c. [Motion Regarding the Creation of an Anti-Surveillance Master Plan within the SSMU 2022-01-20](#) – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- d. [Motion Regarding Progress Updates on SSMU Divestment and Demilitarisation Campaign Mandates 2022-01-20](#) – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

11. Minutes for Approval:

The Chair presents the Minutes for approval.

There are no modifications to the minutes, the Minutes for the Public Sessions of September 23, 2021, December 2, 2021 and December 16, 2021 are approved.

- a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2021-09-23 – **APPROVED**
- b. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2021-12-02 – **APPROVED**
- c. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2021-12-16 – **APPROVED**

12. Discussion:

- a. Parliamentarian on Board (Director Paulin)

Director Paulin states that the Governance team has been discussing inviting the Parliamentarian to work with the Board. The Parliamentarian's hours have been reduced because the Legislative Council meetings have been cut down to once a month, so this would work into her contract. The Chair is responsible for all the documents and emails, which is a lot of work, so she inquires what the Board thinks about having the Parliamentarian become a member of the Board and assist the Chair with his duties.

Director Coussa states that she would be in favour, and was wondering why the Parliamentarian was not on the call today.

Director Heisele Cubilla states that she is in favour as well.

Question:

Director Wan asks the Chair for his input on the matter.

Answer:



The Chair answers that having the Parliamentarian on the Board would be logical, as he has been discussing it with the Governance Manager, as she no longer attends Board meetings. This would be convenient and would allow for a better flow in the meetings. This would also help the Governance Manager and the Chair with the preparation of Board meetings.

Director Paulin states that if everyone agrees, they will confer with the Parliamentarian to ensure that she is comfortable with this. The Director will confirm with the Governance Manager if they would need to pass a motion to invite the Parliamentarian to the Board of Directors meetings.

The Chair states that the terms of the Board of Directors would need to be amended in order to include the Parliamentarian. This could be done by a motion or by inviting in perpetuity.

Question:

Director Downie asks whether the Parliamentarian has sat on Board meetings in past years, and how their status was solidified.

Answer:

Director Wan answers that the Parliamentarian only ever sits on the Legislative Council. The Chair, the Governance Manager and the General Manager sit on the Board.

Director Delouvrier states that he believes that the Recording Secretary was in attendance at the Board meetings to take notes, as he remembers the presence of a former Recording Secretary at a Board meeting a few months ago.

Director Downie notes that from what she recalls, there have been past Parliamentarians in attendance at Board of Directors meetings in the past.

Director Coussa asks that the Board suspend the rules and add the report sent by the Nominating Committee.

The Chair states that this will take place after this discussion point.

Director Wan states that other members may have been part of Board of Directors meetings in the past, but the Parliamentarian has not. It may make sense to ask the Parliamentarian if she is comfortable with attending the Board meetings. He does not believe they need to suspend the rules



anymore, so perhaps they can ask the Executive Committee to do this and report back at the next meeting on the Parliamentarian's preference.

There is no further discussion on this item.

Director Coussa motions to suspend the rules and add the report of the Nominating Committee, seconded by Director Sader. There is no opposition.

The report of the Nominating Committee is added.

13. Motion to ratify the report of the Nominating Committee – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Coussa motions to unanimously approve the motion.

Director Sader points that they should present the public report since there is a Member of the Gallery present.

Director Sader presents the public report. He states that he sits on the Nominating Committee, and their recommendations are to approve the four candidates selected (candidates 1, 3, 4 and 5) and not accept candidate 2. There were all great candidates, and they were judged on their score and their interviews and experience. They chose the candidates for reasons specified in the report, due to high interview scores and individual experiences. They are happy with the candidates and think they will do a great job on the Board.

Director Sader motions to ratify the report by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Coussa.

The report is ratified unanimously.

14. Discussion: Corporate Secretary for Board

Director Paulin states that she was discussing the idea of creating a Steering Committee equivalent for the Board of Directors, and was exploring alternatives with the Governance Manager. The Corporate Secretary role would sit on the Board of Directors, and would set up the documents before a meeting and do follow-ups after meetings. The main reason Director Paulin wanted a Steering Committee was for follow-ups on tasks and items, as well as for motions that need to be worked on. These often fall through the cracks, but the Corporate Secretary would enforce these motions and to ensure they are adopted and respected. She was thinking of assigning the title to the Governance Manager.

Director Coussa states that that is a good idea, and the Governance Manager is qualified for this position.



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Director Paulin states that if everyone is comfortable, she can present this as a motion via email, and it would be added to the Governance Manager's job description.

There is no further discussion on this item.

15. Adjournment: 20:45

Director Coussa motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Director Wan.

The Board of Directors meeting is adjourned at 20:45.

Darshan Daryanani

Darshan Daryanani, President

APPROVED