



SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

March 10, 2022

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 18:00.

Present: Alexandre Ashkir (Chair, non-voting), Parliamentarian Kaur (Dais, non-voting), Eric Sader (Officer), Claire Downie (Officer), Karla Heisele Cubilla (Officer), Sarah Paulin (Officer), Darshan Daryanani (Officer, non-voting), Sacha Delouvrier (Officer, non-voting), Ghania Javed (Council Member), Charlotte Gurung (Council Member), Yara Coussa (Council Member), Benson Wan (Council Member), Melissa Dunn (Member at Large), Kevin Franceschini (Member at Large)

Absent: Sarah Paulin (Officer), Daniel Dufour (General Manager, non-voting), Asiyah Siddique (Member at Large)

1. Call to Order: **18:07**

The Chair calls the Confidential Session to order at 18:07 on March 10, 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 notes the absences of Director Siddique, Director Sidhu, and Director Paulin.

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

The Chair presents the Agenda.

Director Coussa adds a motion to approve purchase couch covers, canceling earbuds, and motion d.



Director Gurung inquired about removing the Director's name in motion.

Officer Delouvrier inquires for point a with documentation of purchase.

Director Wan motions to approve the agenda, seconded by Director Coussa.

There is no opposition. The Agenda is adopted.

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

Officer Daryanani presents the report. The reports includes renewals of contracts and hiring new staff.

Question period:

There are no questions

Director Wan motions to approve the Public Report, seconded by Director Coussa.

The Report is approved.

6. Minutes for Approval:

- a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2021-10-21 – **APPROVED**
- b. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2022-02-08 – **APPROVED**
- c. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2022-02-24 – **APPROVED**

Director Coussa motions to approve the minutes of October 21, 2021, February 8, 2022 and February 24, 2022 by unanimous consent.

The Chair proposes that if there is no modification to minutes, then they will be approved as distributed. The minutes stand approved.

7. Motions for Approval:

- a. Motion to approve the Board of Directors Standing Rules – **APPROVED**

The Chair presents standing rules. The highlighted sections have been modified and solidified for future practice on the Board.

Question Period:



Question:

Director Wan asks about the strike of 9.d.

Answer:

The Chair answers that in practice the sentiment is echoed by another Director, making it less efficient for procedure.

Director Wan motions to unstrike item 9.d., seconded by Director Dunn . There is no opposition. The section is reinstated.

Question:

Officer Daryanani asks about the typo. He suggests clarifying the motion.

Answer:

Director Wan motions to amend to 14.f. Rewritten as“example items include and not limited to” Seconded by Director Gurung. There is no opposition. The clause is modified.

Debate period:

There is no debate.

Director Wan motions to by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Coussa.

There is no opposition. The Standing Rules are approved.

b. Motion to assign Directors to these committees: – **APPROVED**

- i. Nominating Committee:
 1. Director Dunn
- ii. Governance Reform Committee
 1. Director Siddique
 2. Director Javed
- iii. Accountability Committee
 1. Director Dunn
 2. Director Franceschini



The Parliamentarian stresses the importance of nomination to the committee.

Director Coussa makes amendments for the commitment.

- iv. SSAMMOSA (1 Director who is not an Officer)
 - 1. Director Javed

The Chair clarifies the purpose of the committee.

Motion to approve by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Coussa.

- c. Motion to approve the purchase of three couch covers budgeted at \$300 -
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Director Coussa presents motion.

Question period:

Director Heisele Cubilla suggests adding it to the budget.

Director Wan adds points of order.

Debate Period:

Director Heisele Cubilla agrees with approving this motion.

There is no debate.

Director Coussa motions to approve by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Heisele Cubilla.

There is no opposition. The motion is unanimously approved.

- d. Motion to approve the purchase of noise canceling earbuds budgeted at \$497 as part of our accessibility mission – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Director Coussa presents motion.

Question Period:



Question:

Director Wan asks about the quantity of earbuds, their utility, and reusability.

Answer:

Director Coussa answers that some are reusable and others are not reusable. She states that a cleaning process may take place.

Debate Period:

There is no debate.

Director Coussa motions to approve by unanimous consent, seconded by Director Heisele Cubilla. There is no opposition. The motion is unanimously approved.

- e. Motion for a \$500 stipend for the occupation of the Arts building – **APPROVED**

Director Coussa presents motion.

In favor: Director Sader, Director Downie, Director Javed, Director Gurung, Director Coussa, Director Dunn

Opposed: Director Heisele Cubilla, Director Wan

Abstain: Director Franceschini

- i. Action Item: Director Coussa to ask Divest if they desire menstrual products or other hygiene products such as masks and to help facilitate distribution if required — **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
- ii. Action Item: to mandate the Executive Committee to discuss the stipend – **TABLED INDEFINITELY**

Question Period:

Question:

Officer Delouvrier asks about the \$500 fee being on top of the funds already pledged by the External Affairs portfolio through various honoraria payments. He inquires if so, how the portfolio has not yet been brought up in the portfolio.



Answer:

Director Coussa clarifies that SSMU is the highest governing body, so providing \$500 is allowed without going through the channel.

Director Wan suggests to channel motion in other student bodies.

Director Coussa agrees. She explains her intention to provide more funding.

Question:

Director Dunn asks what this stipend will be used for.

Answer:

Director Coussa explains that money would be used towards food resources.

Question:

Director Sader inquires about where the money will be allocated from.

Answer:

Director Coussa notes that she is unsure about the source of the money.

Question:

Director Wan asks about Divest McGill and if they have access to discretionary funding.

Answer:

Director Coussa responds that Divest McGill has discretionary funding, but this one is taking a while. They've applied for funding through Midnight Kitchen.

Officer Delouvrier indicates external portfolio approved funding for a number of initiatives, and towards the arts building. He stresses the importance of the topic at hand, and claims that the campaign budget does not have enough to give back to the cause. He suggests to deem it more appropriate to discuss at the discretion of committee and the External Affairs portfolio as an affiliated political campaign segment.

Question:

Officer Delouvrier asks about a breakdown of Divest McGill.



Answer:

Director Coussa responds that this was sent in the chat.

Question:

Officer Delouvrier asks to move the motion through the Executive Committee.

Answer:

Director Coussa agrees.

Debate Period:

Director Wan suggests discussing the budget at the Legislative Council.

Director Downie agrees with the Legislative Council option. She also supports passing motions in public.

Director Coussa agrees with discussing through the Executive Committee Officer Delouvrier thanks Director Downie and reiterates that his portfolio is open to splitting the cause.

Director Downie presents an informal straw poll. Director Coussa agrees to move to ex-comm.

Director Wan inquiries to follow procedure.

Question:

Officer Delouvrier asks Director Sader how soon Divest McGill would receive this money (transfer \$500 to account) or reimburse up to \$500 made by Divest McGill.

Answer:

Director Sader responds that there is a specific point on stipend.

Question:

Officer Delouvrier asks how quickly the money could be transferred to Divest McGill accounts or reimburse the expenditures.

Answer:

Director Sader explains that in this situation a reimbursement would be the option, paid out by next Friday.



Question:

Director Coussa asks about donating menstrual products.

Answer:

Officer Delouvrier agrees with providing help until a formal check proceeds. He asks about this process to Director Downie.

Director Downie clarifies that she may bring to organizers a number of masks or menstrual products.

The Chair notes that time to motion has elapsed.

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

Director Wan proposes an action item to ask Director Coussa to ask to Divest McGill if they are in need of masks or menstrual products. The Chair adds action items.

Officer Delouvrier asks the Board to move an action item to the Executive Committee meeting. Director Coussa supports the action item.

The Chair clarifies that action items may be approved separately from motion.

The Chair explains that there is a motion to approve motion independent of action items by roll call. Seconded by Director Heisele Cubilla.

Director Franceschini left the meeting at 19:08.

Director Wan motions to table action items until the next meeting. Director Coussa motions to table action item 2 until the next meeting. Seconded by Director Heisele Cubilla.

Director Heisele Cubilla motions to vote for action item 1 by unanimous vote. There is no opposition.

8. Presentation on UTILE affordable housing purchase (Officer Delouvrier)

Officer Delouvrier presents the affordable housing purchase. Two (2) years ago, the plan entailed the purchasing a piece of land where affordable housing would be acquired. Ensuring housing representation and initiatives for all students. This will require a fee per semester, \$6.00 per student. The total amount would be donated to the program UTILE. This plan takes inspiration from a Concordia initiative. The goal with initiative is to benefit underprivileged students or in a precarious



situation. A description of the facilities is presented. The total project cost would be around \$30-\$40 million dollars. The project has the potential to build 5 storeys and 115 rooms, located Downtown Montreal on Saint-Laurent Boulevard.

Question Period:

Question:

Director Wan asks about the design of the building, and logistics of lining up.

Answer:

Officer Delouvrier replies that there are no blueprints, and that how similar the construction would be to 'woodnote'. Including space to maximize it in a great part of Downtown Montreal.

There are no further comments.

Officer Delouvrier outlines that the motion to build UTILE would be passed in the Confidential Session..

9. For Discussion:

- a. Setting up training for employees to know their rights

Director Coussa brings up points of discussion.

Question:

Officer Delouvrier asks about financial costs, who will be responsible for training, and further logistics.

Answer:

Director Coussa explains that this will be done by the Accessibility Commissioner. She states that an additional clause could begin a consultation with staff and know your rights worker position.

Director Sader states that generally this goes more into the domain of the Union. He asks to clarify if the Union has expressed any concern.



Director Heisele Culliba proposes for Human Resources to mandate training, and clarifies that this is a role more of the Union.

Director Wan echoes opinions. He suggests that 'knowing the rights' should be limited in scope as it may be costly.

Director Downie expresses inquiry if there is an urgency with the issue at hand. She explains that training may be more comprehensive to allow for avenues making complaints, vacation days, and other new or urgent information.

Director Coussa agrees with Director Downie. She expresses if it is possible for the board to have the union handle or modify HR training.

Director Downie suggests that the HR department should provide more information of time off and other handy information for employees.

Discussion elapses.

10. Confidential Session: **19:40**

The Board of Directors enters into a Confidential Session at 19:40.

11. Adjournment: **00:05**

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

The Board of Directors meeting is adjourned at 00:05.

Darshan Daryanani

Darshan Daryanani, President