



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

December 08, 2022

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held in a hybrid format on Thursday, December 08, 2022 at 18:00.

Present: Alexandre Ashkir (Chair, non-voting), Jaz Kaur (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Risann Wright (Officer), Val Masny (Officer), Hassanatou Koulibaly (Officer, non-voting), Cat Williams (Officer, non-voting), Marco Pizarro (Officer, non-voting), Benson Wan (Council Member), Coco Jie Wang (Council Member), Peter Tai (Council Member)

Absent: Kerry Yang (Officer), Julia Nam (Council Member)

1. Call to Order: **18:08**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:08. He reminds everyone that the meeting is recorded.

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. He asks that any members of the gallery spell out their name the first time they speak.

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

Officer Williams adds a motion that was sent to the Speaker and the Parliamentarian recently. She asks if this motion should be added to the public or confidential agenda.



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Question:

The Chair asks Officer Williams which she would prefer.

Answer:

Officer Williams answers that she is unsure; she does not think it needs to be confidential.

The Chair adds the motion to the public agenda.

Question:

Officer Williams asks if the Chair has the budget and motion.

Answer:

The Chair answers yes.

Officer Williams clarifies a spelling mistake in the motion.

The Chair adds the documents to Google Drive.

Seeing no further additions, Director Masny motions to approve the agenda. Director Wan seconds the motion to approve the agenda.

Director Wright is opposed. Director Wright rescinds her opposition to the approval of the agenda.

Seeing no opposition, the agenda is approved as distributed.

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

Director Wright presents the Executive Committee Public Report. There were some email approvals, which included hirings and a letter of support from the Executive Committee. She stands for questions.

Seeing no questions, Director Wan motions to ratify the Executive Committee Public Report. Director Wright seconds the motion to ratify the Report.



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Seeing no opposition, the Executive Committee Public Report is ratified.

6. Minutes for Approval:

- a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2022-11-17 – **APPROVED**
- b. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2022-11-30 – **APPROVED**

Seeing no corrections to the Minutes, they stand approved as distributed.

7. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification – **APPROVED**

The Chair states that Motion 7a has been approved at the Legislative Council, and now the Board must ratify it.

Director Wan motions to discuss all the motions as a block. Director Masny seconds this motion.

Officer Koulibaly is opposed, since Officer Pizarro would like to discuss the revision of the budget.

Director Masny inquires if Officer Pizarro would be willing to do a short presentation before the motions are voted on by block. They motion to add a presentation of the Fall 2022 Budget Revision to the agenda, and they ask if Officer Pizarro would be amenable to this and if it is allowed.

The Chair states that the rules can be suspended to add this presentation.

Question:

Officer Pizarro asks if they can discuss the motions as a block, and he can discuss his motion during the discussion.

Answer:

The Chair answers yes. He suggests calling the question on the motion to discuss everything by block.

Director Wan motions to call the question.

Seeing no opposition, Motions 7a-e will be discussed by block.



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Officer Pizarro presents the Fall 2022 Budget Revision. He thinks that the situation they are facing is very unique. He did not ask for the Board's permission to push the budget revision deadline, which was a mistake on his part. During the budget revision, he consulted the accounting team, which has not been done in the past. When he spoke with the Comptroller, he told Officer Pizarro that he had never been consulted before. It says in the Internal Regulations that the revision should be approved by the Board, and that the Budget Revision will replace the Operating Budget. However, the Comptroller told Officer Pizarro that this is not possible, because it makes the auditing process much more complicated. Thus, the Budget Revision is more of a forecast than a revision. He asks any Directors to bring in information from previous years. The forecast has been developed with Managers and Executives, and they had a very specific year. Last year, the budget was projected with a deficit of \$500,000. Former VP Finance Sader predicted a [SSMU Membership] fee levy this year, which they are not doing. The deficit will be present, and needs to be taken from the investment fund. They also need to take into account inflation, so salaries increased a lot. Thus, investments did not make as much profit and the 3501 Peel mortgage will be much more expensive once interest rates are renewed. When Officer Pizarro spoke with managers, he told them that he would focus on essential expenses. Big changes were the Bill 96 regulations, and the External department's changes. Bill 96 required a lot of translation of documents, to make French more visible. They needed to hire a translator; the total costs were \$30,000. Officer Pizarro states that the Comptroller will look for government funding. The former VP Finance attempted to foresee the expenses of a fully in-person school year, accounting for inflation. Every department was able to ask for money last January, but the External department had never been done properly due to pandemic restrictions and the former VP External's resignation. Officer Pizarro and the accounting team worked with Director Masny to create a budget for the External department, worth around \$27,000. There are also a few expenses that were not counted last year, as well as new expenses. Officer Pizarro thinks the total deficit will be between \$650,000 and \$700,000 by the end of the year. He is starting to work with Director Wright, the Building Manager and the Comptroller on a long-term financial strategy. During the audit presentation, there was a lot of information, and the Board should discuss their options for the long-term. Officer Pizarro will present another Budget Revision in February or March that will include more projects.

Officer Pizarro states that Motion 7.a is regarding SSMU's position against COP-15, which started the previous day. The motion presents all the information. Motion 7.c provides winter clothing to Resilience Montreal, on behalf of the Indigenous Affairs Committee since their committee does not meet quorum. It was presented and voted on at the Legislative Council. Motion 7,d was approved at the Funding Committee, and was presented at the Legislative Council because the funding requested surpasses 15% of the Campus Life Fund. It was approved by the Council. Motion 7.e had to go through the Council because it is a policy that has been adopted by SSMU.

The Chair entertains a question period.



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Seeing no questions, the Chair entertains a debate period.

Director Masny motions to ratify Motions 7.a-7.e by unanimous consent. Director Wan seconds this motion to ratify.

Seeing no opposition, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motions 7.a-7.e are unanimously approved.

- a. [Motion Regarding a Position Against COP-15](#)
- b. [Motion Regarding the Fall 2022 Budget Revision](#)
- c. [Motion Regarding a Donation of \\$4000 of Winter Clothing to Resilience Montreal](#)
- d. [Motion Regarding Approval of the Formula Electric Funding Application](#)
- e. [Motion Regarding Free Menstrual Health Products on Campus](#)

8. Motions for Approval:

- a. Motion to approve a budget of \$13,817.32 for Faculty Olympics Hype Night on January 25th 2023, to be paid back by revenue from the event – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

Officer Williams presents this motion. This budget is for the Faculty Olympics' Hype Night, and she went through it with Officer Pizarro. All the money will be paid by using ticket and drink sales.

The Chair entertains a question period.

Question:

Director Wan asks if this is usually how budgets for Hype Night are presented. He is not sure, since he has been a Board Member during the pandemic.

Answer:

Officer Williams answers that this budget was copied and pasted from the last in-person Hype Night. The numbers were altered.

Question:

Director Masny asks what the Transportation section is about.

Answer:



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Officer Williams clarifies that the U-Haul will transport the tables to the venue, it is a one-day rental. There is an Uber fund for participants. DriveSafe will also be present.

Question:

Director Wan clarifies his previous question: he asks if this budget was presented to the Board pre-COVID.

Answer:

Officer Williams answers that if the budget is greater than \$10,000 it must be presented to the Board. She thought that since it is being paid back by revenue, that it would be fine to be presented at the Executive Committee meeting. However, she was told by the Governance Manager that it should be presented at the Board meeting.

Director Masny states that it needs to be presented to the Board in the event that Officer Williams is not able to reimburse the Society through ticket sales. The Board is still aware of the budget and has approved or disapproved it. Since the expenses have not yet been covered, they must be approved by the Board.

The Chair entertains a debate period.

Director Wan motions to call the question. Director Yang seconds the motion to call the question.

Seeing no opposition, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 8.a is unanimously approved.

9. Confidential Session: **18:37**

The Board of Directors enter into a Confidential Session at 18:37.

10. Adjournment: **22:14**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 22:14.

Risann Wright, SSMU President