



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

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

SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

February 23, 2023

The Special Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference and in the SSMU Boardroom on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 18:00.

Present: Alexandre Ashkir (Chair, non-voting), Jaz Kaur (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Risann Wright (Officer), Kerry Yang (Officer), Val Masny (Officer), Hassanatou Koulibaly (Officer, non-voting), Marco Pizarro (Officer, non-voting), Coco Jie Wang (Council Member), Julia Nam (Council Member)

Absent: Cat Williams (Officer, non-voting), Benson Wan (Council Member), Peter Tai (Council Member)

1. Call to Order: **18:12**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:12. 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.

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

The Agenda is distributed.

Seeing no changes, Director Yang motions to adopt the agenda. Director Wright seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the agenda is adopted as distributed.



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5. Confidential Session: **19:18**

The Board of Directors enter into a Confidential Session at 19:18.

6. Motions for Approval:

- a. Ratification of the student-initiated referendum [question](#) regarding Student Support Fee Creation for the Winter 2023 Referendum Period –**APPROVED**
 - i. *“Student Support is a for-profit organisation proposing that all part-time and undergraduate students pay an opt-out-able Student Support Fee of \$10.29 per semester. If this motion is passed, students would receive unlimited access to Udemy, Calm and ProWriting Aid starting in Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2024 (inclusive). Do you agree?”*

The Chair notes that the Chief Electoral Officer could not be present, so there will be no presentation. He entertains a debate period. Any questions can be directed to elections@ssmu.ca, and there are some people in the Gallery who may be able to answer questions. He tells Members of the Gallery that they can speak during debate period: speaking time is one minute and comments must be addressed to the Chair.

Member of the gallery, Ruqayya clarifies that this question is student-initiated rather than corporate.

Question:

Director Masny asks about the usage of an external entity's platform to publish the petition used. They understand that Student Support sent emails to publicise this petition. They ask for more information about this.

Answer:

Member of the gallery, Karim answers that Student Support did not inform students of the petition. Student Support sent out a poll asking how many students wanted services to continue to be provided. They inform students that another student initiated the petition, and they received an email from that student.

Question:

Director Yang asks whether or not the referendum question came before the email to students was sent out by Student Support.



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Answer:

Member of the gallery, Karim answers that after the last Legislative Council meeting, a student became frustrated and emailed Student Support about their frustration. Student Support said that they had to respect the Council's decision. The aforementioned student started the petition. They reached out to Student Support to ask them to inform students about the petition, and Student Support was then given the go-ahead by Elections SSMU to inform students about the petition. The student then sent the petition to students who wanted to sign it.

Director Masny states that there was a link to join the petition waitlist in the Student Support email, so there is a bit of grey area in that. There is an advantage to having support from this third-party with access to student emails, compared to other student campaigns.

Member of the gallery, Jad Yamak states that they heard about this through other students, and only paid attention to the email sent afterwards. They depend on the services, so they reached out to Student Support to raise awareness, they did not really help out. The petition was student-initiated.

Director Masny states that many Board members have received emails supporting these services, as well as questions about Student Support's contract not being renewed despite services continuing to be provided. They have done some research, and ask to explain this in 3 minutes instead of 1. They motion to extend their speaking time to 3 minutes to explain.

Director Yang seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Director Masny's speaking time is extended to 3 minutes.

Director Masny states that they spoke with all four services about an offer that would go directly through SSMU and remove Student Support as the middleman. Udemy and Calm have shown openness about solutions; ProWritingAid has an exclusivity contract with Student Support in Canada, and they are meeting with Grammarly tomorrow. They have already received some answers. In speaking with Calm, they found out that a lot of data is not available to SSMU that they would need to better support students. It seems possible to work with these services without Student Support.

Member of the gallery, Jad, states that Director Masny mentioned that these are preliminary discussions, and there is no concrete plan. The referendum question would guarantee access to these services, which is why students should have the ability to vote on whether or not they want access to them.



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Member of the gallery, Hareth, has similar concerns, because there is no guarantee that services will be provided without the use of Student Support.

Director Yang motions to amend Motion 6.a to move up the end date to Winter 2024 instead of Winter 2028, and propose the motion for renewal in Winter 2024.

The Chair explains that an amendment needs a second, and then he will entertain debate and a vote on the amendment.

Director Masny seconds the amendment.

The Chair entertains a debate period on the amendment.

Director Yang states that this amendment was discussed at Legislative Council, and councillors were more open to this as there have been issues with Student Support. The services provided are very important to students, and they realised that they need more time to decide on the provision of the services. This transitional period might require more time, so Director Yang wants to give them leeway of one year as they explore other options to provide resources to students while allowing continuity of service.

Director Masny hears students' concerns about not having services during the transition period. They state that partners they spoke with expressed a desire to ensure that there is no break in service provision, and this amendment would allow that. They propose an action item for a Director or Directors to explore the possibility of formalising agreements with Udemy, Calm and ProWritingAid to ensure continuity of service should the relationship with Student Support not be beneficial for SSMU, as these services are well-appreciated by students.

Director Yang states that they have a fiduciary and financial responsibility to do what is best for SSMU, and signing a 5-year agreement may be rocky financially. They cannot fully commit to five years, and this motion is important for continuity of service while ensuring that financial responsibilities are maintained.

Member of the gallery, Jad, states that a one-year contract risks the same situation occurring next year. Students are not feeling confident that they will have access to these services for the remainder of the academic year. Students' voices should be heard if the Board wants to prioritise their interests.

Director Wright motions to extend her speaking time to 2 minutes.

Director Masny seconds this motion.



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Seeing no opposition, Director Wright's speaking time is extended to 2 minutes.

Director Wright thanks all the students who have come forward. She states that they are concerned with doing business with Student Support, raised by Legislative Councillors who researched their company and acted on behalf of their constituents. Students have the right to use a petition to have the question raised at the Board. She is concerned by the disregard of SSMU's governance procedures by Student Support. Using student emails to support the campaign as an external entity is inappropriate, and she reads from the Internal Regulations:

"No external body may be directly or indirectly involved in the activities of or in the explicit or implicit support of campaigns. Any campaign believed by the Chief Electoral Officer to have received assistance, either direct or indirect, from an external body, may be subject to sanction up to and including disqualification or invalidation of an election or referendum."

Director Wright adds that the initial email sent by Student Support raised a governance concern. She motions to extend her time by 1 minute.

The Chair extends Director Wright's time.

Director Wright states that external parties, per internal regulations, cannot fee levy students unless an exception is made. An exception was made last year for a trial period for Student Support, which has elapsed. It is at the discretion of the Council and the Board to continue the contract. Any insinuation by Student Support that SSMU is breaking the contract is incorrect. She understands the concern about continuity of students, but Student Support is a company and they have expressed their passion about providing services to students for a lower price. She asks why Student Support needs to go through SSMU to reduce prices. As an entity, they should be able to offer services at a discounted rate without fee levying the students.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly echoes Director Wright's sentiments. One of the major concerns was that many students who do not use the service continue to pay for it without anything in return. She asks if Student Support could charge students individually for access to services.

Answer:

Member of the gallery, Karim states that all actions taken were approved by Elections SSMU. Student Support did not use its platform to promote the petition. Students who expressed their frustration emailed the company to ask for change, and asked them to inform students of the petition. Elections SSMU approved this email.



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Director Masny motions to extend Member Karim's speaking time by 1 minute. It's important to answer one question at a time, to get everyone's opinion on each point.

Director Yang seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Member Karim's time is extended by 1 minute.

Member of the gallery, Karim, continues that Elections SSMU was consulted, and Student Support did not promote the petition. Last year, when the Council met about this project, Student Support explained that their company was run by students who went through hardships during their studies and want to make a difference. The company wants to help students overcome challenges, which is why they are working with student associations. The Council was aware of a previous failed scholarship search engine that the founder of the company had started. The Council proposed a free trial to see if these services would be used.

Member Zaid states that they understand SSMU's concerns about Student Support being a for-profit company. They ask if SSMU works with other for-profits, and if so, what those companies are and what students pay for.

Director Wright answers that it seems as though Student Support was acting in ways that were inconsistent with SSMU's IRs. To clarify her concerns, she reads the email sent by Student Support that she is referring to.

"Dear Students, We have urgent news to share with you! A motivated student is distributing a petition. With enough signatures, your ability to vote on whether or not you would like access to our services in Fall 2023 will be redeemed. Click the button below to be sent the petition form by the student volunteer."

Director Wright states that this was sent by Student Support to students who had signed up for the services. She motions to extend her time.

The Chair clarifies that there are not many speakers so Director Wright can lower and raise her hand again.

The Parliamentarian suggests changing the speaking time to 1 ½ minutes, since there are many students who also want to speak.

Director Yang seconds Director Wright's motion to extend her speaking time.



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Seeing no opposition, Director Wright's speaking time is extended.

Director Masny motions to change everyone's speaking time to 1 ½ minutes.

Director Yang seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the speaking time is changed to 1 ½ minutes.

Director Wright continues that she would prefer the CEO to corroborate that they approved this email. This explanation is not adequate to explain Student Support overstepping SSMU's governance rules.

Member of the gallery, Rocaya, suggests asking the wider McGill community for their opinion, and allow them to debate this.

Director Masny states that the Board ensures that contracts does not put SSMU at risk as an organisation. The concern is about the company itself, rather than the service. This falls under the Board's purview.

The Chair notes that they have deviated from the topic of the amendment. He asks everyone to return to this topic; once it is approved or denied they can discuss the motion as a whole.

Member Jad states that they feel that students are not being taken seriously. All they have been talking about is Student Support, when the real issue is that students are not happy with their right to vote on access to these services. Everyone already knows that Student Support is a for-profit company, and that is not the issue right now.

Director Yang understands concerns, and reads from the Constitution Section 6.1.

"The Board of Directors shall supervise the management and administer the business and affairs of the Society and shall exercise all of the powers of the Society, except for those which the Act expressly reserves to the Members, the whole subject to the provisions of the Act, the Constitution and the Internal Regulations. In making any decisions or taking any actions on behalf of the Society, the Board of Directors shall consider, where applicable and appropriate, any recommendation in respect thereof provided by the Legislative Council."

He states that, given the precedent set by the Legislative Council and the Board's fiduciary duty to SSMU, there are considerations since this is a Board meeting.



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Director Masny echoes Director Yang's sentiments. The Board is legally liable if they put SSMU in financial trouble. They understand students' frustrations, but that is the context there are in right now. They are being discussed because they want to fully consider the services. That is why Director Masny has started to research these services without Student Support. They motion to call the question on the amendment.

The Chair states that, within the Constitution, members have the right to participate in Board meetings, but are not allowed to speak more than twice on the same question. However, this question is very important to some members, so the Chair has been lenient on this rule.

Director Wright seconds the motion to call the question on the amendment.

Seeing no opposition, the Chair entertains a vote on the amendment.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly asks if Director Yang is open to amend the motion again, to remove the binding phrase at the end that states that the question should go to referendum in Winter 2024.

Answer:

Director Masny states that the wording can be changed, otherwise the amendment can be approved and then Officer Koulibaly's concerns can be addressed.

Director Yang is amenable to this. He proposes this amendment. Director Wright seconds this amendment.

Question:

Member of the gallery, Walid, thanks the Board for their effort. They ask, if the services are renewed every year, what assurance they can have that their needs will be met by SSMU in the future.

Answer:

Director Yang answers that they understand this student's concerns. Given new information, they can do further research and build independent relationships with these services to explore future options. Their priority is to continue the services, and they will do research to ensure continuation of services at an affordable price.



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The Chair entertains a vote on the amendment.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment stands and the section in question is stricken.

The Chair entertains a debate period on Motion 6.a.

Director Wright reiterates that Student Support is an external company that can offer services at a reduced rate without needing to levy through SSMU. This does not mean that access will be rescinded, it means that the fee levy will not occur through the Society. She asks the Board, if they pass this, how Directors feel knowing that this question involves working with a company that SSMU has reservations about.

Director Yang understands that they have a duty to Student Support, and there can be risk. However, there are other considerations such as financial ones. To provide services they need to consider their other duties. A holistic approach might be best in this situation.

Officer Koulibaly states that a Student Support must be given an exception to levy their fee, and SSMU must ensure that students are not being taken advantage of, that is, paying a fee for services they do not use. Because there are other services, they should consider their relationship with Student Support.

Question:

Member of the gallery, Rocaya, asks if there are health and insurance plans that provide benefits to everyone. They ask how services can be provided so affordably if the plan is not renewed for 5 years.

Answer:

Director Wright confirms that Student Support was asked if they can offer the same prices for a 1-year contract, and they agreed to do so. She states that this question is being discussed at length because they are taking student concerns seriously. She hopes that students see this.

Director Yang states that the Board has a duty to SSMU and ensure that their actions are responsible, because they are liable. They also should obey the SSMU's missions, one of which is to provide services to students. This is the heart of what they are discussing.



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Director Masny states that discussing their relationship with Student Support cannot be done in public session, for many reasons. They ask to have a discussion in the confidential session to talk about Student Support's potential impacts on SSMU so that they can better prepare for this vote.

The Chair states that the Board can move to this effect if desired.

Director Masny motions to enter a confidential session to discuss contractual details about Student Support.

The Parliamentarian states that there was not initially supposed to be a confidential session; she asks if the rules need to be suspended to add this.

The Chair answers yes. He states that this motion requires a second and a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote.

Director Wright explains that Directors will enter the confidential session so that they can discuss confidential matters; details of contracts and others. Any conversations about the substance of the question will be discussed in the public session. She seconds Director Masny's motion.

Seeing no opposition, the confidential session is added and the Board moves into it. He moves the Members of the Gallery into the waiting room.

The public session resumes at 19:49.

Question:

Member of the gallery, Rakan, states that, since SSMU wants a one-year contract, that is okay since 10,000 students use the services. They have used Udemy a lot for their Computer Science classes. Almost half of students use the services, so they do not know why this is such a big debate.

Answer:

Director Wright answers that this debate is not about the services themselves, it is about the third party for whom an exception was made previously for them to fee levy students. The question being posed is not whether services have value to service, but whether SSMU should work with this company. This has become a larger issue because of the company's conduct, which was discussed at length. Based on the trial period and Student Support's conduct, as well as considerations for SSMU, the Board is deciding whether they should let the company fee levy students.



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Question:

Member of the gallery, Jad, asks Director Wright if it would have made more sense to keep access to services while this decision was being made. There is no concrete evidence that services will continue to be provided. Students need these services during finals and essays, which are coming up.

Answer:

Director Wright clarifies that the services will remain available until August 31, 2023, so the decision to renew them is being made before the end of the term. Students will thus have access to services during midterms and finals. The agreement with Student Support was passed for a year-long term, so SSMU is now considering re-introducing this contract. They are simply allowing the agreement to come to a natural end, and they are considering renewing the contract next year.

Question:

Member of the gallery, Rocaya, asks the Board what was decided in the confidential session.

Answer:

The Chair answers that the Board has not made a decision yet; they are debating now. A Board member will move to call the question when they feel they are ready. The Chair encourages such a motion.

Director Nam states that it is important for students to know that this debate is about Student Support as a whole rather than the services themselves. During her faculty meeting, she realised that many people thought the Board did not want to provide these services to students, when in reality they do. They support the services, but not Student Support.

Officer Pizarro adds that there is no official reason as to why the Council rejected this motion, and the Council has a different mandate and opinion. There were other concerns, and the Board is focussing on the company itself rather than the services.

The Chair notes that Director Wan joins the meeting at 19:59.

Member of the gallery, Rocaya, states that the petition was filed because students were frustrated that they did not have the chance to vote on these services. If SSMU feels that they will be able to provide these services within a year, they are okay with that. All they care about is the 10,000 students who use



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the services. The year will give SSMU time to address students' frustrations and give them the chance to vote on this issue.

The Chair states that the Parliamentarian must leave the meeting. He suggests a motion to call the question.

Director Wan asks what discussion occurred earlier, since he was not there. He asks if there were statements provided about the Board's decision, based on the Council's previous decision. If not, he could provide clarification.

Director Wan states that the decision made by the Council, the political arm of SSMU, falls beyond the Board's scope. This petition is separate, and any concerns about the original decision should be brought to the Council representatives, on the SSMU website.

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

Seeing no opposition, the Chair entertains a vote by reaction.

Director Wright motions to vote by confidential ballot.

The Chair answers that this is in order.

Director Yang seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Chair entertains a vote by confidential ballot. He asks all Directors to send him a private message with their vote.

Question:

Member of the gallery, Rocaya, asks what the Board is voting on.

Answer:

The Chair answers that they are voting on the ratification of the referendum question. If it passes, the question will be included on the referendum ballot. If not, it won't be included.

Member of the gallery, Rocaya, asks if the Board would be willing to have students vote on the referendum question, so that there is a guarantee that students have access to services next year. This



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way, SSMU will be able to find an alternative to Student Support and the McGill community will be able to have a say on this question.

The Chair states that this has been discussed during debate period, and Directors are voting on it now. He asks Directors to send in their votes.

Motion 6.a passes.

- b. Ratification of the student-initiated referendum [question](#) regarding IRSAM Fee Creation for the Winter 2023 Referendum Period – **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**
 - i. *“Do you agree with the implementation of the opt-outable IRSAM Fee of \$1.00 per student, per semester (excluding summer), payable by SSMU Members starting in Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the Membership for renewal, with the understanding that failing to receive these funds would significantly hinder the aforementioned initiatives?”*
 - ii. Be it further resolved that the IRSAM provide a financial budget on the referendum question to inform voters on the usage of this fee

Director Nam states that she needs to leave soon, but will be able to join later. She leaves at 20:11.

The Chair entertains a 5-minute break. The break starts at 20:12.

The meeting resumes at 20:17.

The Chair notes that there are 5 Members of the Gallery related to this discussion point. He entertains a debate period. There is a 1-minute speaking time, and each Member can speak twice.

Question:

Director Masny asks if the Whereas clauses are being included in the question.

Answer:

Member of the gallery, Lucas Nelson, answers that through their communications with the Elections Office, the Whereas clauses should be included in the question.

The Chair adds that the full question is included in the document.



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Question:

Director Masny asks if the first Whereas clause is true; it states that IRSAM is the only McGill affiliated government-registered non-profit organisation. They ask what the relationship between IRSAM and McGill is.

Answer:

Member of the gallery, Nelson answers that their affiliation is through SSMU; IRSAM is an independent student group. They are also federally registered as a non-profit. The first Whereas clause is included because they could not find any other organisation that is student run which also has this status.

Member of the gallery, Lily Sefranek, states that IRSAM is registered with Corporations Canada as a non-profit, and they need to update their Board of Directors' status every year to ensure this.

Director Masny states that the wording of the first Whereas clause implies that IRSAM is the only organisation affiliated with McGill to be a registered non-profit, which might not necessarily be true and may be misleading. For liability reasons, they should remove the part of the clause that says that they are affiliated with McGill.

Member of the gallery, Esme Longley, states that IRSAM is affiliated with McGill in the sense that they represent McGill as an institution when they go abroad. This is included in their title. It is important to include McGill, because it is part of their external reach.

Officer Koulibaly notes that Director Masny is saying that saying that IRSAM is the only McGill affiliated non-profit would not be accurate, because all ISGs are also affiliated.

Question:

Director Wan asks the movers of the motion if they will provide a budget on the referendum question for financial transparency.

Answer:

Member of the gallery, Nelson, answers that a budget was not included yet due to budget regulations. However, one can be provided. Their budget is quite extensive, so they might have to review how to make this approachable to students.



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Director Wan states that he previously sat on the Funding Committee, and similar initiatives have gone through the Ambassador Fund. If this is the case, he asks IRSAM why they are switching from the Fund to a student fee.

Member of the gallery, Longley, answers that the Ambassador Fund is not enough to cover an international trip for delegates. They have many students who cannot afford to pay for their trips, and subsidies are key to make delegations accessible.

The Chair clarifies that they are speaking about the ratification of the fee, so there is no Motion.

Question:

Director Wan asks if the concerns about the Ambassador Fund have been brought to the Funding Committee.

Answer:

Member of the gallery, Nelson, answers that they have not, but the reasons for the fee are more numerous. The Ambassador Fund funded one of their individual subsidiaries, such as the Delegation Team. The fee they are looking to implement is IRSAM-wide, and would encompass equity, community, McGill United Nations representation.

Question:

Director Masny asks what the hopes with the Junior Peacemakers Program is. If it is to encourage youth to become police officers under the UN, this should be clarified. The title is a bit confusing.

Answer:

Member of the gallery, Mackenzie Mosey, responds that the title implies youth making peace. It has no affiliation to anything police-related, and does not try to convince children to become police officers. Their program goes towards elementary school initiatives about global citizenship, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and how youth can make a difference.

Director Wan is unsure if the point about peacemakers falls under the more political arms of SSMU. Promoting pro-police organisations might be risky, but this probably falls outside of the Board's scope.



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Member of the gallery, Mosey, answers that IRSAM is a non-political organisation; their programs are based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Their sessions are about the UN, global citizenship, the environment and initiatives on these topics. It does not encourage youth politically.

Director Wan clarifies that this still falls outside of the Board's scope.

Question:

Director Masny asks if IRSAM received consent from McGill to say that they are affiliated with the University. If they did not, it causes a liability issue for the Board.

Answer:

Member of the gallery, Sefranek, answers that they are widely-known to be related to McGill, since its name is included in the IRSAM name.

Member of the gallery, Longley, adds that they are not a small group, they are one of the biggest organisations on campus. If there was an issue with them using the McGill name, they would know by now since it has been a few decades since IRSAM was created.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly states that under their MOU with McGill, they have to be careful about how they use the McGill name. All ISGs have MOUs with McGill, and she asks if IRSAM has one.

Answer:

Member of the gallery Nelson clarifies that other subsidiaries use the McGill name, notably the McGill Model United Nations Conference (McMUN) and the McGill Delegation Team. This confirms that IRSAM can use the McGill name.

Officer Koulibaly states that it is important to be clear that this is included in the MOU. There are even some student groups who use the McGill name without being supposed to. She wants to confirm for sure that they are allowed to use the McGill name.

Question:



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Member of the gallery, Sefranek asks what an MOU is.

Answer:

Officer Koulibaly answers that it is a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement (MOA). It allows a group to exist separate from but in collaboration with McGill. It explains if a group can use the McGill name, and outlines their relationship with the University.

Member of the gallery Nelson notes that a few members are finding the MOU right now.

Question:

Director Masny asks if IRSAM is aware of an MOU/MOA. The reason they can use the McGill name is because of their relationship with SSMU, which gives the Society the liability. There is a risk to saying they are associated with McGill without permission, because McGill has acted on these things before. The sentence about this is cause for concern.

Answer:

Officer Koulibaly states that IRSAM has an MOU. She states that the problem of this sentence is the wording, for SSMU's liability. IRSAM using McGill's name is not the issue at the table. She thinks that it falls on IRSAM to take on this liability, since it is them saying that they are affiliated with McGill. McGill is also reviewing the question, so they could speak on this if they want to.

Question:

Member of the gallery Sefranek asks if all groups have an MOU, or if it is only in cases that McGill has agreed to let the group use their name.

Answer:

Officer Koulibaly answers that it is usually outlined, especially for student groups. McGill has their own policy on this, but it is usually mentioned in an MOU when a group can use the name. ISGs at SSMU usually have an MOU with McGill.

Question:

Member of the gallery Nelson asks, if they rephrase the wording to stress their non-profit status affiliated with SSMU, if this would cause problems with SSMU.

Answer:



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The Chair states that the motion can be amended.

Officer Koulibaly states that the IRSAM is associated with SSMU, so it would not be a problem to say this.

Member Nelson asks if they can amend the motion now to do so.

The Chair states that Directors must do this, since the motion has already been approved.

Director Wright motions to amend the motion. Director Masny seconds the motion to amend.

Member of the gallery Nelson clarifies a typo. The Chair answers that they will be corrected.

The Chair entertains a debate period on the amendment.

Seeing no discussion, the Chair entertains a vote on the amendment.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment is made.

The Chair entertains discussion on the motion.

Director Wan proposes an amendment to add a budget on the referendum question. Director Masny seconds this amendment. They ask if this will be part of the question itself. The Chair answers yes.

Director Wan clarifies that this amendment is for Motion 6.b.

The Chair states that the inclusion of a budget will need to be approved by the Chief Electoral Officer. He entertains a discussion about the amendment.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly asks if the budget will be for the full operations, or if it will precise where the fee will go.

Answer:

Member of the gallery Sefranek proposes a budget projection of what the money will be used for. Considering their bylaws have confidentiality agreements, and the extensive nature of the budget will overshadow what they are using the money for.



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Officer Koulibaly is torn; it would be nice to provide a more accessible budget about what the money will be used for. It should also be clear what other funds IRSAM receives. She asks if this is a possibility.

Member of the gallery Nelson states that they are not allowed to share exact budgets, but they can redact budgets and condense some sections. Individual breakdowns of events are not allowed, and are very long. They can provide a condensed version of the budget.

Question:

Director Masny asks what IRSAM's operating budget is, and what their projected budget would be after the fee.

Answer:

Member of the gallery Sefranek asks what specific portfolio Director Masny is referring to, because IRSAM has 7 organisations underneath it, who each have their own budgets. Each budget has its own breakdown, so they can speak generally about the budget but this question is hard to answer.

Officer Koulibaly answers that it would be great to have a condensed budget, and the IRSAM Constitution could be changed to allow them to share their budget. Once a group starts levying the student body, it is important to share where funds are going. Another agreement can also be made to publicise their budget and operations.

Director Wan states that a budget is asked for when a group is asking for a significant fee. It does not look good if all funding is used for discretionary funding. If there are discrete entities that money is being allocated to, students should be notified of this. Otherwise, it will be assumed that it is going towards discretionary funding, which is poor practice. Overall funding categories should be provided.

Member of the gallery Sefranek states that the most important thing is a breakdown of where money goes. They could tell students which portfolios make the most money and how that money is distributed. They would also explain how the new money will help specific portfolios.

Member of the gallery Nelson states that their budget projection from September 2022 had revenues of \$274,000, and expenses of \$289,000. This has since changed, because they have applied to funds and changes in actual numbers have changed. Clearly, the fee would cover the deficit.



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Question:

Officer Koulibaly asks, when a budget is added to a question, who checks the budget to ensure that it is added and condensed but still informative.

Answer:

The Chair states that the CEO will receive the motion, if it passes, and he will be informed that a budget should be attached. There won't really be someone who checks it over, that is for Executives, the CEO and students to do.

Director Wan answers that the CEO or DEO would ensure that the budget is attached, and students would judge it for their content and the group would make sure that a good budget is provided.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly asks if the budget currently includes SSMU funding received, and if the fee increase would continue to reflect expected SSMU funding.

Answer:

Member of the gallery, Nelson answers that the budget includes some SSMU funding, but it does not reflect actual funding received. They ask if they should provide a budget without SSMU funding.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly asks if IRSAM will still apply for SSMU funding if they receive the fee increase.

Answer:

Member of the gallery Nelson answers that they would not.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly asks where they get their revenue from.

Answer:

Member of the gallery Sefranek states that SSMU funding is not currently enough to cover bursaries across portfolios. Whether or not they would continue to seek SSMU funding depends on whether or not the fee would allow IRSAM to function and grow. The amount of money they receive every year changes; it is received from the Secondary Schools United Nations Symposium (SSUNS) and McMUN, their two model UN conferences. This money also



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supports other portfolios, but it is not enough so IRSAM must ask for SSMU funding, which is not enough either.

Director Wan states that they are moving away from the original discussion point, the corporate side of the discussion.

The Chair reminds everyone that they are still discussing the amendment.

Director Masny motions to call the question on the amendment. Director Wan seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment is made.

The Chair entertains a discussion on Motion 6.b.

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

The Chair entertains a vote by reaction.

With 4 votes in favour, Motion 6.b is unanimously approved.

7. Adjournment: **21:05**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 21:05.

Risann Wright, SSMU President