



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.

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SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

February 16, 2023

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 18:00.

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

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

1. Call to Order: **18:36**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:36.

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.

Director Wan asks to move Council Motions for ratification up.



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The agenda is modified.

Director Wan moves Motions for Approval up as well.

The agenda is modified.

Seeing no further modifications, Director Wan motions to ratify the agenda.

Director Wright seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the agenda is adopted.

5. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification: **APPROVED**

Director Wan motions to discuss and vote on Motions 5.a-5.u by block and vote by unanimous consent.
Director Wright seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Motions will be discussed and voted on by block.

Director Wan states that these motions were brought up at the most recent Legislative Council meeting. They seem to be robust; they are fee renewals or mandates and have been approved by the Council. They are looking for Board ratification to allow these motions to appear on the referendum. He motions to call the question.

Director Wright seconds the motion to call the question.

Seeing no opposition, the Chair entertains a vote by unanimous consent.

Seeing no opposition, Motions 5a-u are unanimously ratified.

- a. [Motion Regarding a Referendum Question on the Increase of the Midnight Kitchen Fee 2023](#)
- b. [Motion Regarding MSA Service Fee Increase](#)
- c. [Motion Regarding The SSMU Grocery Program Policy 2023-02-09](#)
- d. [Motion Regarding Approval of the McGill African Student's' Society Funding Application](#)
- e. [Motion Regarding the SSMU Grocery Fee Program 2023-02-09](#)
- f. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on the Renewal of the Arab Student Network Fee-Levy 2023-02-09](#)
- g. [Motion Regarding the Increase of the Referral Services Fee 2023-02-09](#)



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- h. [Motion Regarding Plate Club Fee Renewal Referendum Question 2023-02-09](#)
 - i. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on the Increase of the Mental Health Fee 2023-02-09](#)
 - j. [Motion Regarding the Renewal of the Space Fee Referendum Question 2023-02-09](#)
 - k. [Motion Regarding the Black Student's Network's Fee Renewal 2023-02-09](#)
 - l. [Motion Regarding the EDI Working Group Terms of Reference 2023-02-09](#)
 - m. [Motion Regarding the Ratification of the Board of Directors 2023-02-09](#)
 - n. [Motion Regarding the Nomination of the Auditor for the 2023 Fiscal Year 2023-02-09](#)
 - o. [Motion Regarding a Fee Increase For Drivesafe Referendum Question 2023-02-09](#)
 - p. [Motion Regarding the Renewal of the Environment Fee Referendum Question 2023-02-09](#)
 - q. [Motion Regarding the Referendum Question on the Increase of the DPS Fee 2023-02-09](#)
 - r. [Motion Regarding the Fee Increase of the TPS 2023-02-09](#)
 - s. [Motion Regarding the Implementation of the Legal Essentials Plan Fee 2023-02-09](#)
 - t. [Motion Regarding Ecole's Fee Renewal Referendum Question 2023-02-09](#)
 - u. [Clubs Committee Report 2023-02-09](#)
6. Motions for Approval:
- a. Motion to approve the following for Faculty Olympics 2023; – **APPROVED**
 - i. The schedule of events as attached, with SSMU signing all venue contracts.
 - ii. The budget of \$93,228.06, including a 10% contingency

Director Wright brings this motion forward on Officer Williams's behalf, and yields her time to her.

Officer Williams presents the schedule and budget, including venues. The last venue is to be confirmed, but everything else is set. She presents the expenses by day and revenues from tickets. The event is five evenings, and four days. Ticket prices are \$105, lower than expected.

The Chair entertains a question period.

Question:

Director Masny asks, considering the slight deficit in the budget, if that is being accounted for in the SSMU budget.

Answer:

Officer Williams answers that the deficit is a precautionary measure, ideally it will not happen as everything is planned out. All numbers presented are preset, so they know exactly how much everything will cost. The contingency is required as per the budget policy, but it is a



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precautionary measure. From previous Fac-os, there was a \$10,000 deficit, which is not being aimed towards this year. Based on other events, losses were minimal so Officer Williams is not concerned about running a loss.

Question:

Director Masny asks if there is a budget for Fac-O itself, if there were to be a deficit, or if this is not planned.

Answer:

Officer Williams answers that this would not lie within the Internal Affairs budget, because Fac-o has its own budget within SSMU finances. She does not expect to need to use the contingency budget.

The Chair entertains a debate period.

Officer Pizarro states that there is no money for Fac-O in SSMU's funds.

Officer Williams explains that all Fac-O expenses are covered by revenue from ticket sales. If there is an issue with this loss, they can raise ticket prices but they try to keep them as low as possible for accessibility. This contingency is a precautionary measure.

Director Wan notes that he will be abstaining from the vote since he is participating in Fac-O. He motions to call the question. Director Masny seconds this motion.

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

With 3 votes in favour and 1 abstention, Motion 7.a. is approved.

- b. Motion to approve Student Life Operations Department St Patricks Day Event –

APPROVED

Director Wright yields her motivation to Officer Koulibaly.

Officer Koulibaly presents this motion. This event was put forward by the Student Life Operations Department, to have the event in the SSMU building. The initial expenses are about \$20,000 so they must be approved by the Board. She presents the budget. The Operations Department made some



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revenue from other events, so they would like to put some of this money towards this event in hopes of attracting traffic to the building. She stands for questions.

The Chair entertains a question period.

Question:

Officer Williams asks why there is a profit for the event if they are using revenue earned from other events.

Answer:

Officer Koulibaly states that they are expecting a profit from ticket and drink sales. The budget can be adjusted for them to not make a profit.

Officer Williams states that it does not make sense to bring forward a motion with profit, if they are already trying to get rid of revenue. She proposes an adjustment so that there is no profit.

Officer Koulibaly clarifies that the money is not being spent to get rid of the profit, there just happens to be additional money that can be put towards this event. SSMU is paying less for this event; ticket and drink sales are expected revenues for this event. It can be adjusted so that there are no profits.

Officer Williams notes that the event can be made more accessible by lowering ticket prices.

Officer Koulibaly answers that ticket prices have not yet been determined, but she is happy to reflect this in the budget.

Officer Williams is amenable to this.

Seeing no further questions, the Chair entertains a debate period.

Director Wan asks Officer Koulibaly if she wants the amendment made at this time.

Officer Koulibaly states that budgets reflect expectations about profits, so this amendment can be made.

Director Masny is wary of getting rid of the profit, because people might not drink as much as the Board thinks. They think that they should tell the Events team to lower the ticket prices as much as possible. It's also hard to know how many people will buy tickets. They are not worried by the \$2,700,



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considering that the Events department has a surplus of \$15,000, so they are reducing their surplus by having this event. Personally, they do not mind.

Officer Koulibaly explains that the ticket prices reflect expectations, so the \$2,700 is the money that is not being spent from the surplus. She is willing to make this change.

Officer Williams states that she is not comfortable with an event making a profit, even in the preliminary budget. This is not fair to students, especially because ticket prices have not been determined. This can be adjusted easily so that there is no profit made.

Director Wan motions to commit this motion to the Executive Committee.

The Chair states that this cannot be done, as the amount of money must be approved by the Board.

Director Wan states that the Executive Committee should figure out the details of profits, and then the Board can ratify it once this has been done.

Officer Koulibaly states that the next Board meeting will be the day before the event. She suggests reducing ticket prices now so that no profit is made.

Question:

Officer Pizarro asks, if the Board does approve the budget, if the Events team will still plan the event.

Answer:

Officer Koulibaly answers that they are still waiting for the go-ahead to plan the event.

Officer Williams states that she is amenable to voting on the motion today if changes suggested are made. The budget can be approved under the condition that any planned profit will go towards reducing ticket and drink prices. She adds that there is another event the same day at Gerts, so there would be two events at the same time in the same building.

Director Wan retracts his earlier motion.

The Chair answers yes, since there was no second.

Director Wan motions to amend the budget to change the ticket sales section.



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Director Wright seconds this amendment.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment stands.

Director Wan motions to call the question and vote by unanimous consent.

Director Wright seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 6.b is unanimously approved.

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

Director Wright presents the Executive Committee Public Report. Motions for hirings were approved for internal and service staff. She stands for questions.

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

8. Minutes for Approval:

- a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2023-01-05 – **APPROVED**
- b. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2023-01-24 – **APPROVED**

Seeing no changes or corrections, the minutes are approved.

9. Confidential Session: **19:11**

The Board of Directors enters a confidential session at 19:11.

10. Adjournment: **20:10**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 20:10.

Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President