



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

March 29, 2023

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Wednesday, March 29, 2023 at 18:00.

Present: Risann Wright (Officer), Val Masny (Officer), Hassanatou Koulibaly (Officer, non-voting), Marco Pizarro (Officer, non-voting, Parliamentarian), Peter Tai (Council Member), Benson Wan (Council Member), Kerry Yang (Officer)

Absent: Alexandre Ashkir (Chair, non-voting), Jaz Kaur (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Cat Williams (Officer, non-voting), Coco Jie Wang (Council Member), Julia Nam (Council Member)

1. Call to Order: **18:14**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:14. The Speaker for this meeting is Officer Koulibaly. She reminds everyone that the meeting is recorded.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker 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 Speaker takes attendance. She states that Officer Pizarro is replacing the Parliamentarian.

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

Seeing no additions or changes to the agenda, Director Wan motions to adopt the agenda.

Director Masny seconds this motion.



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Seeing no opposition, the agenda is adopted.

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

Director Wright presents the Executive Committee Public Report. She states that email approvals were done and motions were approved. She stands for questions.

Seeing no questions, Director Wan motions to approve the Executive Committee Public Report.

The Speaker notes that Director Yang arrives at 18:16.

Director Yang seconds this motion.

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

6. Minutes for Approval:

a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2023-02-23 – **APPROVED**

Seeing no changes or corrections, Director Wan motions to approve the Minutes.

Director Masny seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Minutes stand approved as distributed.

7. Fiat Lux Presentation (Director Yang)

Director Yang states that the Library Improvement Fund is doing consultations to see if students want books to be transferred to a new library, to modernise McLennan and Redpath libraries. There is also a technological component, to make technology more accessible to students. Fiat Lux focuses on creative technology such as 3D printers, and they are used at other schools. These tools will be useful for design and innovation, but they are often inaccessible to students because of their costs. This investment will make them accessible to students. Students will be able to work in maker spaces, audio and video production rooms, black rooms. Another big part of the Fiat Lux project is a space for students to discuss in the new library, and maybe a screen in this space to watch movies, sports games, or show Indigenous art. There are also ideas about scholar presentations and new group study rooms with screens and wireless connections to these screens. Other examples of technology include lending technology to students, but this would be very expensive. The Library Improvement Fund gets \$1,000,000 per year, since it is from student money but the Provost matches contributions from



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students. Usually the Fund provides student employees' wages and pays for longer opening hours, which might be reduced with this project. The Library proposed that SSMU pay for some of these projects, and they will provide some options with cost estimates. The Library is estimating a cost of \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 over a span of 3-6 years, so the Library Improvement Commissioner suggested that SSMU provide \$1,000,000 over four years. When they get the library's wishlist, they will do consultations before making a decision about what to fund. Director Yang stands for questions.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Director Masny asks if the \$1,000,000 investment includes the Provost's contribution.

Answer:

Director Yang answers that the Library Improvement Fund is made up of student and Provost money, so it will be some of both. Depending on what students want, the cost might be higher or lower. The Library is trying to push higher, but SSMU is trying to see what is popular among students.

Question:

Officer Pizarro asks how the money will be used if they do not spend \$1,000,000 on this project.

Answer:

Director Yang answers that the money will be used to support other libraries, as McLennan and Redpath libraries will be closed. Smaller libraries (Law, Schulich, Osler) will need more resources, and money will accumulate in the fund until they decide how to spend it.

Question:

Director Wan asks if the project will continue if SSMU does not provide the \$1,000,000 investment, and what the repercussions are of using the fund for other initiatives.

Answer:

Director Yang answers that the money from the Fund must be used for libraries, so unless there is another big library project, it would accumulate until another project comes up.



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Question:

Director Masny asks if Fiat Lux is the name of the project or the company doing the work.

Answer:

Director Yang answers that Fiat Lux is the name of the library transformation project, it is the vision for the new library. All the work is being done by McGill's libraries department. If SSMU does not use some of the Library Improvement Fund for this project, the library will need to turn to external funding sources and philanthropy, which is more finicky than SSMU funding. Also, those who invest would have more say in what technology is purchased for the library.

Question:

Director Masny asks if SSMU funding would provide money for the suggested library on the Royal Victoria Hospital site.

Answer:

Director Yang answers that they are only funding the McLennan-Redpath project.

Director Wan states that the closure of the McLennan-Redpath will cause them to lose a lot of library space. Although there are other libraries, this will be an issue until the Fiat Lux project is complete, which might take a decade. He suggests using some money to improve the other libraries while McLennan-Redpath is closed, and using half the money for Fiat Lux and the other half for other libraries.

Question:

The Speaker asks if the usage of the Library Improvement Fund is determined by the Legislative Council.

Answer:

Director Yang answers no, the Library Improvement Committee decides how to use the money. There is no cap for the Committee to decide where the money is going, so it is a courtesy to ask students how the money should be spent. The Legislative Council has the authority over each Committee, so technically they can make decisions but this sets a dangerous precedent.

8. Confidential Session:



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The Board of Directors enter into a Confidential session.

9. Adjournment: **20:34**

The Speaker declares the meeting adjourned at 20:34.

Risann Wright, SSMU President

APPROVED