



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

May 18, 2023

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

Present: Alexandre Ashkir (Chair, non-voting), Jaz Kaur (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Val Masny (Officer), Marco Pizarro (Officer, non-voting), Hassanatou Koulibaly (Officer, non-voting), Julia Nam (Council Member), Benson Wan (Council Member), Kerry Yang (Officer), Peter Tai (Council Member), Incoming Executives (non-voting), Risann Wright (Officer)

Absent: Cat Williams (Officer, non-voting), Coco Jie Wang (Council Member)

1. Call to Order: **18:22**

The Parliamentarian is the Acting Chair in the meeting and calls the meeting to order at 18:22.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Parliamentarian 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 Parliamentarian takes attendance.

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

The agenda is distributed.

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



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

Director Masny seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the agenda is adopted.

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

Director Masny presents the Executive Committee Public Report. They did some hirings and renewed job descriptions. They stand for questions.

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

Director Yang seconds this motion.

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

6. Minutes for Approval:

- a. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2023-03-29 – **APPROVED**
- b. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2023-04-13 – **APPROVED**
- c. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2023-05-04 – **APPROVED**

The minutes are distributed.

The Parliamentarian recommends voting on the minutes by block.

Director Masny motions to this effect.

Director Wan seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the minutes stand approved.

7. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification:

- a. [Motion Regarding the Adoption of a Trans Advocacy Plan 2023-04-06](#) – **APPROVED**

Director Yang presents Motion 7a. After the Legislative Council meeting, the Executive Committee reviewed the Plan and it is now being presented to the Board. He stands for questions.



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

The Parliamentarian entertains a question period.

Question:

Director Wan asks the Board if there could be any repercussions if the Plan mentions the professor in question's name.

Answer:

Director Yang answers no, as the motion is more about the Centre for Legal Pluralism than it is about the professor in question.

Director Masny motions to ratify Motion 7a.

Director Wan seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7a is ratified.

b. [Motion Regarding the SSMU SDG Plan 2023-04-06](#) – **APPROVED**

Director Wan presents Motion 7b. It was presented last week at the Legislative Council, and they discussed actions to be taken by SSMU in relation to the UN's SDGs as well as shortcomings of the Plan in relation to other SSMU policies.

Seeing no questions, Director Masny motions to ratify Motion 7b. Director Wan seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7b is ratified.

c. [Motion Regarding the SSMU Sustainability Policy 2023-04-06](#) – **APPROVED**

Director Wan presents Motion 7c. One of Director Wright's goals as president was to increase sustainability on campus, and this motion aims to address it. This motion was approved at the Legislative Council.

Seeing no questions, Director Wan motions to ratify Motion 7c.

Director Yang seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7c is ratified.



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

d. [Motion Regarding an Extension of the Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy 2023-05-11](#) – **APPROVED**

Director Yang presents Motion 7d, which ensures that the GSVP is extended until December 2023. This extension would allow the GSVP Committee to do the proper consultations to renew the policy.

The Parliamentarian entertains a question period.

Question:

Director Wan asks if there are any repercussions to not having a GSVP for the summer semester.

Answer:

Director Yang answers yes, because there have been GSVP complaints in summer semesters in the past.

Director Wan motions to ratify Motion 7d.

Director Yang seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7d is approved.

e. [Motion Regarding the 2023-2024 SSMU Operating Budget 2023-05-11](#) – **APPROVED**

Officer Pizarro presents Motion 7e. Last week, he presented the operating budget to the Legislative Council for 2023-2024. Last year's budget projected a \$650,000 deficit, and the actuals are similar. Because there are more expenses, their budget is larger, at \$1,100,000. They do not have a significant change in revenue, but they projected \$361,000 more in expenses, due to hirings of the General Manager and other positions, some hired this year and some to be hired. They tried to cut many expenses, which is why the difference is pretty low. They cut from sections other than salaries. To approve such a large deficit, there is a need for a fee increase in October. There is a plan being worked on by the Incoming Executives, and they should discuss this more in the confidential session.

The Parliamentarian entertains a question period.



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

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks if they have planned contingency budgets in case the fee increase does not pass.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro that this budget has the minimum expenses, and it is the budget regardless of whether the fee increase passes or not. If the fee increase does not pass, they will need to evaluate the sustainability of the Society.

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks if the temporary legal services fee comes out of the operating budget (ASEQ legal trial run). He asks if this will continue into the next fiscal year.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that this was a trial run, so the plan will be covered by a fee. It is possible that it will be taken out of the operating budget, since they have found no other solution yet.

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks if they would create a third opt-outable Studentcare fee. He asks if this could be included in this fee, rather than the operating budget.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that the legal fee cannot be taken out of the Health and Dental reserve fund because it can only be used for these plans, and not the legal plan. This means that next year, there will be a separate fee for the legal plan, in addition to the health and dental fees.

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks, if the fee fails, if they can cancel the legal plan.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that the trial was already provided this year. This fee is restricted, so they cannot use the money for a different purpose, such as operations. He suggests going into further detail in the confidential session.



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

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks if they will be cancelling the fee in the future.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that the fee on the screen is the cost of the trial run. There is a fee in place for the next three years, and they cannot change it. In two years, the Legislative Council can decide whether to renew it or not.

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks why there is a discrepancy between the revenue projected from student fees and the actual fees collected.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that the Accounting team took the actuals from the previous year, minus 5%, because they do not know how many students will opt out of fees.

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks what Officer Pizarro would recommend for the future of SSMU as VP Finance.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that it would be best to go over his recommendations in the confidential session.

Seeing no further questions, Director Yang motions to ratify Motion 7e.

Director Wan seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7e is ratified.

- f. [Motion Regarding Amendments The Students' Society Programming Network \(SSPN\) Committee Terms Of Reference 2023-05-11](#) – **APPROVED**

Director Masny presents Motion 7f. The Council amended the SSPN's Terms of Reference to improve social, financial and environmental sustainability. They stand for questions.

Seeing no questions, Director Wan motions to ratify Motion 7f. Director Yang seconds this motion.



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

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7f is ratified.

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks what happens if they [the Board] do not ratify something approved by the Council.

Answer:

Director Masny answers that the Board can refuse something outright, commit it back to the Council to fix issues or aspects, or commit it to a committee or another body. It is rare that the Board rejects something as is.

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks if it is possible to ratify something with an amendment.

Answer:

Director Masny answers yes, but not recommended if it changes the essence of the motion, as the Board is not a political body. Anything major must be done in collaboration with a General Assembly or Legislative Council.

g. [Motion Regarding Faculty Olympics Funding 2023-05-11](#) – **APPROVED**

Director Masny presents Motion 7g. FACO had a large deficit, and following a Legislative Council meeting, some changes were made. They approved using the First-Year Affairs Fund to cover about half of the deficit, while the other half is to be paid back by fundraising by SSPN. SSPN has to start the year with a deficit, and slowly absorb it through fundraising. In the meantime, they have to absorb the deficit until SSPN reimburses them.

The Parliamentarian entertains a question period.

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks what the VP Internal should do to make up the money.



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

Answer:

Officer Koulibaly answers that SSPN events that make money will go towards the deficit. Raising money can be done through events with many people, at low costs. The VP Internal can work with SSPN to figure out what events can be planned. In her experience, this is not too difficult.

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks which funds are restricted and which ones are not.

Answer:

Director Masny answers that they applied to the First-Year Affairs Fund, and the Funding Committee judged that this event was geared towards first-years and eligible for the Fund. The Council approved the Motion. Funds are restricted to their description. Any fee levy is a restricted fund for that fee, and the operating fund is a bit more fluid; it can move through departments and different mandates.

Officer Pizarro adds that the operating fund is covered by the base fee. Seeing no further questions, Director Wan motions to ratify Motion 7g.

Director Tai seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7g is ratified.

Director Masny states that the following motion is for ratification, not for approval. They motion to suspend the rules to move it to the proper section.

The Parliamentarian answers that they do not need to suspend the rules, as it is a small change.

- h. [Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Ethical Partnerships Policy 2023-04-06](#) –
APPROVED

Director Masny presents Motion 7h. The Policy's goal is to have partnerships align with SSMU's position. They wanted to have an implementation plan, to ensure that following this plan would go smoothly. Officer Pizarro completed this action item, and Director Masny yields their time to him.

Officer Pizarro states that he made this plan after consulting with the VP External, the Sponsorship Coordinator and the Comptroller. The implementation date was determined to be September 1,



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

because this made the most sense. No new contracts will begin before that. They still need to discuss the potential conflict with the MoA. There will be two dates when a report will be presented to the Executive Committee, because the Finance Committee will not be in place on June 1 and September 1. The policy will be renewed at the end of the year, when the Finance Committee can consult to see if changes need to be made. Clarifications were needed to determine the impacts of the plan. The Sponsorship Coordinator determined the impacts, which allowed them to better understand sponsorships, of which there are two kinds. Monetary sponsorships and exchange sponsorships, \$60,000 of which is monetary, most for the handbook and digital media. They received \$100,000 in exchange sponsorship. The policy is for monetary sponsorships only, because 23% of their revenue will be reduced by this policy. This includes partnerships with RBC, BMO, Luna Apartments, Campus 1, etc. Renewed sponsorships include Poulet Rouge and maybe BMO. Most changes have already been implemented, so this policy might not have a large impact. It is hard to understand the financial impact of changing banks, but he thinks that most of the effect would be during the transition period. The VP Internal will determine sponsorships that are ethical in case the Sponsorship and Finance Coordinators cannot.

Question:

Director Masny asks that these documents be added to the drive.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly asks if the Finance Committee is a committee of the Legislative Council.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that it is a Board committee as well.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly asks if reports given by the Sponsorship Coordinator would be reported to the Board or the Council, because they have important implications for SSMU. The Executive Committee or the Board should have access to the information collected by the Sponsorship Committee.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that he would be willing to add a reporting mechanism.

Question:

Director Yang asks what ethical considerations take precedent over constitutional and financial considerations.



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

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that if the Board ratifies the policy, the ethical considerations would come first.

Director Masny adds that no policy can contradict the Constitution. Certain financial considerations in the Constitution cannot be overwritten.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly asks which motion is being discussed.

Answer:

The Parliamentarian answers that they are discussing the motion as well as the implementation plan.

Question:

Director Yang asks if this policy would come into effect as it is currently written, or if SSMU will take its current financial situation into consideration.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that the investment fund has been modified to make ethical considerations. The financial impact is estimated at \$13,000, and it is important to consider the importance of ethics for sponsorships. For them to respect their mandates, SSMU must raise student fees rather than depend on sponsorships for money.

Director Masny thinks that it is confusing to discuss the policy and plan at the same time. They ask which the Board would prefer; they think it would make more sense to discuss the policy at this time, and then discuss the plan once the policy is ratified.

The Parliamentarian agrees with this.

Question:

Director Wan asks the Parliamentarian to show the table of partnerships at risks.



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

Answer:

Officer Koulibaly thinks that discussing the implementation plan can help determine whether or not they will ratify the plan. They should discuss the two separately.

Director Tai believes it would be more efficient to ratify the policy first, before the plan. The Parliamentarian states that the plan is not being presented for ratification; they are ratifying the policy. She suggests suspending the rules to add the plan for approval.

Officer Koulibaly states that the policy was not ratified sooner because they needed an implementation plan. She suggests adding a discussion item within the motion.

Director Wan believes that a lack of implementation plan was the main reason why the motion was not ratified sooner, so it is part of the discussion. Approving the policy would approve the plan as well.

Director Masny motions for a 10-minute discussion on this subject of the policy and plan.

The Parliamentarian states that they do not need a motion for this, because the discussion would just continue.

Director Wan clarifies that this is for parliamentary procedure.

Director Masny clarifies that they proposed this motion because they cannot discuss two things at once. They motion to discuss the motion and the implementation plan together for 10 minutes.

Director Yang seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Parliamentarian entertains a 10-minute discussion.

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks for elaboration of the financial consequences of ethics relating to SSMU's investments.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that they have already divested from certain companies, this year, Dollarama and RBC. They lost money as a result of this, because oil and gas investments are the only ones that did well this year. So, they did not make revenue from their investments this year.



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

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks if they had negative gains, or if they made fewer gains than inflation levels.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro clarifies that they had negative gains.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly believes the impact of sponsorships is based on this year alone. She asks if the policy or divestment is feasible with a \$1,100,000 deficit.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that he does not have an exact answer. They have a fund that can sustain the deficit, so until the fund can no longer sustain the deficit they will be okay.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly asks what fund sustains the deficit. She asks how big the deficit needs to be for them to need to make money.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that the Capital Expenditure Reserve Fund is a pile-up of surpluses from previous years, and it is usually used for investments. It cannot go lower than \$2,500,000, and they can currently support the deficit with that fund.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly believed that they were already at the limit of the Reserve Fund.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers no.

Director Yang reminds everyone that they have a financial responsibility to SSMU. If they are going to break the Constitution and go into the Reserve Fund, they need to consider the long-term impacts. He adds that this policy is quite important, and he wants it to pass, but it cannot be passed as it is. He



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

wants to amend the scope, to include a financial consideration and their duties as an institution. As the Board, they are obligated to consider the Society's finances.

Director Masny clarifies that the Reserve Fund is included in their Internal Regulations of Finance, not the Constitution.

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks if this \$2,500,000 limit of the Reserve Fund is set in stone, or if it rises with inflation each year. If not, he asks when the limit was set.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that the Internal Regulations of Finance work as bylaws and have almost the same importance as the Constitution.

Director Masny clarifies that the IRs of Finance can be amended at the Legislative Council.

Officer Pizarro states that not all IRs of Finance can be changed at the Council; the Reserve Fund would have to be passed at a referendum. The limit was set when the fund was created, a long time ago.

Director Yang states that the Constitution takes precedence over Internal Regulations, and Internal Regulations take precedence over policies. They must adhere to the pre-existing policies, which should be a factor into this discussion.

Director Masny notes that, since this is a preliminary discussion, they should follow the order of speakers rather than take follow-up questions.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly asks how money accumulates in the Reserve Fund, and if the deficit is to be covered by this fund, how low it would go.

Answer:

Officer Pizarro answers that the Reserve Fund collects surpluses from previous years. Usually, there are surpluses from investments. The Reserve Fund has a good amount of money, but if the fee increase does not pass, it would fall very close to the \$2,500,000 limit.



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

Incoming Barlas states that the CPI and interest rates would mean that the limit should be higher now, for the money to carry the same limit as it did when it was set. He does not understand how it is sustainable for the Society to eat into the Reserve Fund.

The Parliamentarian states that the 10-minute discussion period has passed.

Director Masny motions to extend the discussion period by 10 minutes. Director Wan seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the discussion period is extended by 10 minutes.

Director Yang states that they will hit the limit in about a year. They have a duty to students, and making up the deficit with student fees does not seem appropriate. They should think about the previous Executives who have set aside the money. Spending 30% of their Reserve Fund in a year is not a great idea, and the motion should be amended to put a sustainable plan forward.

Director Masny states that the amount is set by the Internal Regulations. The Reserve Fund is partly funded (\$1,800,000) by selling shares in the McGill Bookstore in 2006, so it is important to consider other funding sources. They are unsure how much they increased the Reserve Fund in the past 15 years, but they would be wary of speculating.

Director Yang notes that they must consider real dollars, as inflation is very real. \$2,500,000 in 2006 is worth \$3,450,000 today. This should be taken into account, as their \$2,500,000 limit in 2006 is actually worth 40% less than that. As SSMU grows, they should be growing the Reserve Fund.

Director Wan understands how this motion aligns with SSMU's values, but the Board has a duty to care for SSMU's finances. There have been many issues this year, and they should try to be responsible. With a better understanding of the short- and long-term impacts of this motion, they can make a better decision. They should figure out some details to understand the implications of the plan.

Director Masny states that the motion is going to be revised every year, because it is difficult to assess all the impacts. This allows SSMU to act in their best interest every year. Per their bylaws, the requirement is \$2,500,000 without CPI.

Question:

Officer Pizarro asks how many new positions there are in the motion, and if this motion is a summary of their positions.



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

Answer:

Director Masny answers that the framework section of the motion is based on frameworks that have already been voted on. So, there is nothing new, other than applying these positions to their partnerships. However, some new positions were approved after this plan was written.

The Parliamentarian states that they have exhausted the 10-minute discussion period. She recommends a recess.

Director Wan motions for a 5-minute recess. Director Masny seconds this motion.

The Parliamentarian entertains a 5-minute recess.

When the meeting resumes, Director Wan motions for a 5-minute extension of the discussion period.

Director Masny seconds this motion.

Question:

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas asks if Officers can second motions.

Answer:

Director Masny answers that only Directors can.

Seeing no opposition, the Parliamentarian entertains a 5-minute discussion period.

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas states that Director Yang's CPI calculations were very conservative. At a 5% average inflation rate per year, compounding over 15 years, the real money limit of the Reserve Fund should be \$5,000,000 instead of \$2,500,000. He is concerned that a Board needs to take money from its endowment. He thinks that the Board should preserve the Society's financial integrity.

Officer Koulibaly agrees with Director Wan, because this motion changes their approach to partnerships. The implementation plan should encompass all possibilities, so she wants to have a better idea of the plan for future years.

Director Yang proposes two amendments: the policy should not take into effect if they are running a deficit of greater than \$200,000, and they should put financial considerations into the policy.



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

The Parliamentarian asks where Director Yang wants to put his amendments.

Director Yang answers that they should be in the scope section. He asks if he can make them now.

Director Masny answers that he should wait for the discussion period to end. They add that the IRs of Finance give them guidelines for investments; they cannot invest in socially harmful areas, human rights abuses, or environmentally harmful areas. These are defined in other policies, so no matter what, the IRs of Finance will be considered. This policy is seen to prevent investments and partnerships, but it also guides partnerships that are in line with SSMU's values. It should be applied even if there is a deficit.

The Parliamentarian states that the discussion period has elapsed.

Director Yang motions to amend the motion.

Director Wan seconds the amendment.

The Parliamentarian entertains discussion on the amendments.

Director Wan thinks that the \$200,000 deficit is an arbitrary number, and he wonders what would happen if they have ongoing sponsorships that must be cancelled in the event of a \$200,000 deficit.

Director Yang states that he is not set on \$200,000; he chose it to give SSMU some wiggle room. The policy should be taken into effect if SSMU runs a surplus, so sponsorships might have to be cancelled before agreements end. Otherwise, they could have single-year renewable contracts.

Director Masny notes that sponsorships cannot really be terminated. If there are legal questions about renewing, it is difficult not to renew sponsorships. The policy does not say that sponsorships must be a year-long. It could say that contravening sponsorships must be a year long. The policy forces SSMU to look at their banking institution and compare their values.

The Parliamentarian declares that they no longer have quorum, as Director Nam has left. She asks someone to check the Internal Regulations.

After checking the regulations, the Parliamentarian determines that they have quorum. The meeting resumes.



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

Director Yang states that employees must consider SSMU's mission statement regardless of this policy. He adds that it would be costly to consider only the most ethical partnerships, and they should be in a healthy financial situation before changing any regulations of partnerships.

Director Wan states that this would affect incoming partnerships. If they run a deficit and sign into a not-so ethical partnership, in another year when they run a surplus a similar company would not be eligible for a partnership. This puts them in a precarious position, so they need to set clear goals. They could sign not-so ethical partnerships for only one year.

Director Masny cautions around assuming that all parties will follow this policy; it was brought forward because this was not the case. They add that most voting members were present at the Legislative Council meeting, and this issue is very important to Director Masny. It seems that they are trying to change everything about the policy without seeing its good, and they should read through the policy to find the parts that they like. It would be overstepping to change everything, and there are some things in the policy that are very relevant. It would be deplorable for the financial concerns to erase political decisions made at the Legislative Council, especially positive decisions.

Director Yang does not think that the Board is overstepping its authority, because they have to take into account their financial duty to the company. These considerations are foundational to how SSMU runs as a company. Either, they can pass this motion with amendments and revise it during the summer, or they can table it and rework it during the summer. He is leaning towards passing it now and amending it later, but he is uncomfortable with passing the motion without amending it.

Incoming VP Internal Affairs Barlas agrees with Director Yang. The Board has an important financial consideration, and passing this motion unamended threatens the Society's financial sustainability. Disregarding some policies conflicts with SSMU's political positions, but eating into the endowment signals that they are approaching bankruptcy, which indicates that SSMU might have to dissolve. Financial responsibility comes first, and they cannot act freely without it. They have a deficit of \$1,200,000 now, and costs are increasing; they should save as much as possible. He trusts that current Directors will maintain the financial integrity of the Society.

Director Masny clarifies that amending this policy to render it ineffective at a certain deficit removes clauses that have little to no financial impact on the Society. They can tell their investment office to look for sustainable investments. Completely putting this policy aside in the event of a deficit is overstepping, especially when it comes to striving for good investments, rather than eliminating negative ones. They should respect how this policy was passed at the Legislative Council, and if they cannot, they should work with the parts they can use. Otherwise, they would be overturning a policy.

Director Yang motions for a 10-minute recess to make amendments.



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

Director Masny seconds this motion.

Director Wan states that this motion can be committed back to the Legislative Council or a sub-committee, because there is some disconnect between the political goals and monetary implications of the motion. With a proper timeline, they could propose modifications to the Legislative Council, but their term has elapsed. It is unfeasible for them to meet this week, before the next Board meeting. If they want to do things properly, they would push this back to the Legislative Council and have next year's group look at it. This can be risky, because the authors of the motion will not be present. They could also create a working committee of Directors and Councillors to review changes to be made, to ensure that they are in line with the political nature of the motion.

Incoming Barlas states that they cannot have political freedom without financial freedom. This amendment ensures that they have political freedom when they have financial freedom. There can be nuances, but it is important. He asks for an example of an ethical investment.

The Parliamentarian entertains a 10-minute recess.

Director Wan asks if the amendments will be read out for the record after the recess.

The Parliamentarian answers that the amendments will be discussed and voted on after the recess.

After the meeting resumes, Director Yang reads out the amendments.

- Flexibility in partnerships when SSMU runs a deficit of \$200,000+

Director Yang asks to extend the recess.

The Parliamentarian extends the recess by 2 minutes.

After the recess, Director Yang presents the amendments.

- If SSMU has a deficit, sections 5.2 and 7.3 of the policy would not be in effect in the following fiscal year.
 - The partnerships signed in this time have to be 1-year long.
- Financial considerations should be taken into account.

Director Wan seconds the amendments.

The Parliamentarian entertains a discussion period on the amendments.

Director Masny motions to discuss the amendments separately.



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

The Parliamentarian entertains discussion on the first amendment.

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

The Parliamentarian entertains a vote on the amendment.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment is added.

The Parliamentarian entertains discussion on the second amendment.

Director Masny states that this amendment is very vague, and they ask what the precise intention is.

Director Yang clarifies that it shows that financial considerations matter as well, and they should be in accordance with this policy.

Director Wan agrees with Director Masny that this amendment is superficial; he suggests explaining how financial considerations can be made.

Director Masny suggests that this amendment would be better suited in section 7.5. It would be more precise, and would not be as limiting.

Director Yang is amenable to this change.

Seeing no further questions, Director Yang motions to call the question.

Director Wan seconds this motion.

The Parliamentarian entertains a vote on the amendment.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment is added.

The Parliamentarian entertains a discussion period on Motion 7h.

Incoming VP Student Life Dakdouki agrees with the sentiment of the motion and its amendments, but she finds this policy restrictive when they are looking for more possible revenue to cover the deficit. She thinks they are already restricted by divestment. Students felt strongly about divestment and passed it, but it has had a negative impact on SSMU financially. This is causing the deficit in part, and leading to a fee increase. She proposes tabling this motion until next year, to determine whether or not students are willing to have a fee increase and put their money where their mouths are when it comes



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

to divestment. If students are willing to cover the deficit that comes from divestment, it makes sense to adopt this policy.

Director Masny states that it would be incorrect to conflate divestment with increases in fees. For some students, it might be true, but not for all. SSMU has grown over the years, and perhaps this growth has not been sustained by their investments. It is overly simplified to blame all of this on divestment, and everyone should have a balanced perspective.

The Parliamentarian notes that Incoming Ashkir and Director Wright are present.

Incoming Ashkir states that the question is if they will be able to run the Society properly without questionable partnerships. He thinks that they can find alternative revenue sources, but some parts of the motion would limit monetary partnerships with McGill. The scope of the motion is notable, but they need to evaluate their responsibility towards their principles and students' money. If they focus too much on their principles, they will increase fees further and change their money gathering. They need to evaluate trade-offs between partnerships that will bring in good money for SSMU, and follow their principles. He thinks that this motion needs to be modified.

Incoming VP Student Life Dakdouki notes that the financial situation is not because of divestment only, but it is important in motions like these when they consider ethical partnerships. The Board has a financial responsibility, so they must look at the financial point of view. Even though divestment and these policies restrict their partnerships might not reflect all students' opinions on fee increases, there is a correlation between them. If students do not want to fund the difference, SSMU cannot put itself in a negative financial position. They should not have a view of certain institutions as negative, because they do not have a choice until their finances are stable without these institutions.

Director Wan understands points that have been made, but he asks if the new clause (which posits that SSMU can make less ethical partnerships when there is a deficit of \$200,000) makes the new Executives reconsider their positions.

Incoming VP Student Life Dakdouki states that this amendment is a good idea, but her point is that students are voting on policies based on their thoughts of the policy's statements and beliefs. This is fine, but policies have financial impacts. If students want to absorb this duty, that is fine, but if they wait until next year, it will be clearer that the fee increases are tied to policies being put in place. This should be made clearer, but the deficit and fee increases will make this issue even clearer. This motion has been passed by the Council without considering the finances.

Incoming President Ashkir states that this is going to affect students. If they consider individual cases, the amount of help possible sponsorships provide to the Society and students, they are worth the negative effects of dealing with these corporations. They do have a social responsibility as a



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

non-profit, but there is a limit to this responsibility as a Board that wants to primarily help students. They should focus on their priorities, and fundamentally if this is to pass, he would be more comfortable putting this to referendum to ask students directly. This will have long-lasting effects. If sponsorships last only one year, continuity becomes the issue if they do not solve the financial issue.

Director Masny states that it is unfortunate that some people missed the sponsorship presentation. They will lose about \$13,000 from sponsorships due to this policy, if it had been applied this year. Tickets and food sponsorships were not affected by the policy, and they are worth around \$100,000. The main issue is investments, because the impacts are not as clear as they have already done some divestment and they already have a clause in the IRs to make socially responsible investments. This would come into play before the new policy. Amendments proposed remove a clause that limits their partnerships with certain companies. The amendment in question does not affect the whole motion in order to respect the Council's political authority, and to recognize that section 5.3 of the motion is followed. So, Director Masny feels comfortable moving forward with a vote. They move to this effect.

Director Wan states that they might want to have more consultations, even though the Council and Board were consulted on this. Most students are represented by the Council, so waiting for a General Assembly or referendum to ask students about this could be a waste of time. The Board has done their due diligence on this motion, so Director Wan would be comfortable voting on this.

Incoming VP Student Life Dakdouki states that this was passed at the Council before the budget was presented, so she believes the financial implications of the policy should be laid out. This might not restrict sources of revenue right now, but it might do so in the future. Understanding the implications of the policy is important for students.

Director Yang states that they had a lot of discussion about it, but they can still review the motion in the summer or even send it to referendum. For now, he is satisfied with the motion given the time constraint.

Incoming President Ashkir states that a lot of good comes out of this motion, and the more it affects SSMU the better. This might not be better for students, considering the finances. There is discussion to be had about diversification of finances at SSMU, so that they can continue to provide services to students.

The Parliamentarian recommends voting on this motion.

Director Wan motions to call the question.

Director Yang seconds this motion.



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

Seeing no opposition, the Parliamentarian entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7h is ratified.

8. Motions for Approval:

- a. [Motion Regarding the Addition of Gender-Affirming Care to the Studentcare Dental Plan](#) – **TABLED INDEFINITELY**

Director Yang presents Motion 8.a, which was presented at the Legislative Council. He received an email update: the Comptroller thinks this motion should not be presented right now, given that new staff have not had the time to fully assess it. It might not fit into the Health and Dental Fund, which is a restricted fund. They also need to estimate the impact of providing this care, because this is a new area of care and all costs are not fully understood. If they use the Reserve Fund for the gender-affirming care provision, it might put it at risk because it is reserved for annual fluctuations in price. The accounting team raised some concerns about this motion.

Officer Pizarro states that they have \$500,000 of unexpected expenses. It is hard to understand what is possible with the Reserve Fund, and this increase of expense has not been reviewed fully. The comptroller has not determined whether or not they can pay for gender-affirming care with the Reserve Fund. He is concerned with the manner in which Studentcare approached them, and that he did not have time to consult auditors. This is the first time he is intervening in the Health Plan, due to past issues with the Legal Protection Plan. Usually, the Health and Dental Review Committee reviews changes to insurance, but this new care was brought to the Council and the Board.

Director Wan believes that they should discuss this after having proper consultations. He proposes Action Item 8.a.i.

Officer Pizarro states that the Comptroller wants to ensure that they can provide gender-affirming care, and that they have enough money to do so without raising the insurance fee.

Director Yang states that he talked to the Comptroller about this.

The Parliamentarian suggests finishing the action item or striking it.

Incoming Ashkir clarifies that they vote on action items after the discussion.

Director Wan clarifies his action item.



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

Director Yang states that he emailed the document with his conversation with the Comptroller to everyone. A cost analysis has been done; gender-affirming care would only cost \$9/student, so it is still safe to use the Reserve Fund.

Officer Pizarro states that the Comptroller received this, and said that he wants to check the numbers again. Sometimes, Studentcare does not always know SSMU's internal situation.

Director Wan believes that it would not hurt to check in with the Comptroller, so that by the next meeting all misconceptions can be clarified. If everything is finalized, it can be passed at the next meeting.

Question:

Director Masny states that the document seems to presume that the \$9 per student would come from the Health Fund, and the Council approved this care for addition onto the Dental Plan. They ask if this has an impact on the numbers.

Answer:

Director Yang notes it does change the numbers if the gender-affirming care comes from the Dental Plan; it would probably increase the price by $\frac{1}{3}$. He also wants to know what or how long the Comptroller needs to do to figure out the numbers. They cannot really know how many claims will be made, and there is no place to estimate that because other universities have just started implementing this plan.

The Parliamentarian reminds everyone to use titles instead of names.

Director Masny thinks that, since they are unsure how this care being on the Dental Plan will affect the price, they would have liked to look at the numbers longer. It could be possible to have a financial review and ask Studentcare for a more comprehensive table, considering that the Council has decided to move this plan to the Dental Plan. They have not yet addressed how this fits into the Health and Dental Plan.

Officer Koulibaly clarifies that the discussion surrounded taking money from the Reserve Fund to cover gender-affirming care.

Director Masny states that this has not been answered.



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

Incoming Ashkir states that there is a lot of confusion about this plan, and some missing information. They need to get the full information and study the plan in full. They also need to understand Studentcare's intention. This plan can wait until they get all the information; it is not an issue that needs to be resolved now.

Director Wan asks Officer Pizarro to email the Comptroller.

Officer Pizarro answers that it would be best for Director Yang and the Comptroller to be in contact, but he can help if it is needed.

Director Yang amends the action item to include himself, Director Wright, and Officer Pizarro in it.

- i. Action item: For Director Yang, Director Wright, Officer Pizarro, to contact the Comptroller regarding consultations required prior to adopting the Gender-Affirming Care benefit with ASEQ by Thursday May 25th 2023. --

APPROVED

Director Wan motions to vote on the action item. Director Masny seconds the action item.

Seeing no opposition, Action Item 8.a.i stands.

The Parliamentarian entertains debate on Motion 8a.

Director Wan motions to table Motion 8a to the next meeting.

Director Masny second this motion, but suggests tabling indefinitely so that they can vote on it by email or before the next meeting.

Director Wan is amenable to this.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 8a is tabled indefinitely.

Director Masny motions for a 5-minute recess. Director Wright seconds this motion.

The Parliamentarian entertains a 5-minute recess.

- b. [Motion Regarding Changes to Service Review Committee Terms of Reference](#) –

APPROVED



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

Director Masny presents Motion 8b. Some changes were made to positions, and a new position was created.

Director Masny motions to vote on Motion 8b. Director Wan seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Parliamentarian entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 8b is approved.

c. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Food Security Policy](#) – **APPROVED**

Director Masny presents Motion 8.c. Changes were made, because there was a mistake in the motion. They include the name of the political campaign for food security in the motion, and making clearer tasks to be done by Executives at SSMU.

Seeing no questions, Director Wan motions to approve Motion 12.c. Director Masny seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 12.c is approved.

- d. Motion to approve the payment of the SAESEM invoice for Trash2treasure of \$12,324.26 from the Community Relations department (4085), understanding that this amount will be reimbursed by the community engagement fund as the application was successful – **APPROVED**

Director Masny presents Motion 12d. SAESEM invoiced them, and the amount will be reimbursed by the Community Engagement Fund. Because the amount is over \$10,000, it must be approved by the Board.

Director Yang motions to call the question. Director Masny seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Parliamentarian entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 12.d is approved.

- e. Motion to approve the following Summer Meeting dates for the Board of Directors :
Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 6:00PM, Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 6:00PM, Thursday,
August 17, 2023 at 6:00PM – **APPROVED**



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

Question:

Director Wan asks if the terms of the current Executives end before the first summer meeting.

Answer:

Director Masny answers that they end June 1.

Officer Pizarro suggests having a meeting the first week of June.

Incoming President Ashkir thinks that this schedule is fine; they can call an emergency meeting if they need to.

Director Masny asks for everyone to focus on this motion; they motion to vote by unanimous consent.

Director Yang seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 12e is approved.

- f. Motion to approve the incoming-outgoing Executives retreat budget of \$5,653.18 --
APPROVED

Officer Pizarro presents Motion 8f, the budget and budget per person. There are 12 people leaving for 2 nights, and the budget includes transportation, food, accommodation and room rentals to work. There is also a \$100 inclusion for activities, and a contingency budget of 15% (although they will probably not spend the whole amount).

Question:

Director Wan asks if this retreat is typically held.

Answer:

Director Yang answers that it is typically, and last year was an anomaly. He found all the old schedules.

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

Seeing no opposition, Motion 8.f is approved.



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

9. Confidential Session:

Director Masny motions to suspend the rules to add a Motion 8f.

Director Wan seconds this motion, and adds an announcement by the Speaker.

Seeing no opposition, both agenda items are added.

10. Announcement by Speaker Alex and Parliamentarian Jaz

The Speaker thanks everyone for a great year. He thanks the Parliamentarian for two years working together. He thanks the Board members for a good year, and thanks Director Wan for his contributions over the past two years and his whole time at SSMU.

The Parliamentarian thanks Director Wan for keeping her procedural knowledge up to date.

The Speaker states that the amount of things discussed at the Board over the past two years has been incredible.

Director Wan motions to vacate the Chair.

11. Adjournment: **00:11**

The meeting is adjourned at 00:11.

Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President 2023-2024