



**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 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

September 28, 2023

The regular monthly Legislative Council Meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held in the Lev Bukhman Room of the University Centre and by teleconference, on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:16**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order. The Speaker for this meeting is the Deputy Speaker, Sierra Fallis.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

The Speaker takes attendance.

Present are: Councillors Porter, Rajan, Baybayon, Sakajiri, Tai, Foster, Rylo, Shannon, Qian, Nitu, Grall-Johnson, Zukerman, Foxman, Fournier, Gertsvolf, Proxy Ben Rejeb, President Ashkir, VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly, VP Internal Affairs Barlas, VP Student Life Dakdouki, VP External Affairs Gaither, and VP University Affairs Katchelewa.

Absent are: Councillors Yang, Nitu, and Rancourt.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa states that there was no one elected to be the Senate Representative so this position is not filled by Councillor Garofolo.

The Speaker asks everyone to speak into the microphones on the sides of the room so that the recording device picks up the sound.

Councillors Qian and Rylo note their presence.

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



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The agenda is distributed.

Councillor Gertsvolf motions to adopt the agenda.

Councillor Baybayon seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the agenda is adopted.

5. Minutes for Approval:

- a. SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2023-09-11 – **APPROVED**

The minutes are distributed.

Seeing no changes or corrections, the minutes stand approved as distributed.

6. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker states that the Speaker, Jonathan, is sick. The Steering Committee met this week and went over Executive and Councillor Reports. They also prepared for the General Assembly.

7. Reports by Councillor:

- a. [Science \(SUS\)](#)

Councillor Foxman presents the SUS Report. Departmental training was completed, and equity training is coming up. Executives met with the Office of Science Education and the President is finalizing a wellness course. They had their first SUS Council meeting the previous week. SUS VP Academic is planning a schools fair in November, and the Academic Committee is working on changing course descriptions. They have also created a concerns and complaints form. The SUS VP Finance is working on the newly changed financial structure, and everything is now in the same account. VP Internal worked on Barbie Frosh, and now is planning Science Games. The Internal Committee is looking into partnerships with the Montreal Ballroom Community instead of their annual ski trip. VP External helped co-host Blues Pub with EUS. VP Sustainability is working on the SUS scholarship, since they do not have as much money as last year. They have posted a support message for the anti-LGBTQ+ counter-protest. Inclusive hiring templates have been made.

- b. [Arts \(AUS\)](#)



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Councillor Baybayon presents the AUS Report. The President organized Frosh, and works on annual upkeep of the AUS. They work in spaces and other administrative duties, as well as SNAX. The Executive Committee is now meeting weekly, along with the Secretary General team. Some departments are running fall elections. VP Finance is working on the audit, and the summer budget was passed and they are now working on the school year's budget. They are collaborating on a textbook library project. FMC hiring is complete, and it will start meeting this semester. Departmental budget allocations are being sent out, and permits for SNAX are being received from the Quebec Government, with the cafe planning to open at the end of September.

Councillor Rajan continues the report. She states that departmental mailing lists are being sent out, and Council dates have been finalized. Departmental orientation and a guidebook were completed, and committee allocations are coming up. VP Internal worked on Frosh, and BDA which is running. They are relaunching the EPIC committee. VP Academic hired for the Essay Writing Centre, and they drafted plans for an EDI initiative. They also want to create a space for non-departmental publications within AUS. VP Communications sent out AUS handbooks, and sent out listservs. VP External is working on the Yellow Door collaboration and the Mental Health Committee, which is planning a mental health event. The Grad Fair will be done in collaboration with SUS this year.

#### c. Dentistry (DSS) (3) – **POSTPONED TO NEXT MEETING**

The Dentistry Report is postponed.

#### 8. [Executive Committee Report Summer 2023](#)

##### a. President Ashkir

President Ashkir presents his report. He has been meeting with the Governance department, chairing the Executive Committee, and working on the Board and Council. He sits on many McGill committees, and attends various events throughout the summer. He points out the meeting about the usage of French in schools, which is a very important issue at McGill. He works on a variety of projects and supports various roles. Many people in his portfolio also work on these projects. President Ashkir stands for questions.

##### b. VP Internal Affairs

VP Internal Affairs Barlas presents his report. He published the SSMU Handbook, and sends out weekly and special listservs. Online flyers are being distributed, and Instagram Reels are being posted to focus on online engagement. The VP Internal office organized Crash Pads during Frosh as well as Gerts' U18 events and the IFC event. SSPN held the Back to School Event, and the next event is a film screening. Work on FACO has already begun. The First-Year Council elections are underway, and the FYC



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Coordinator has been hired. They are planning to collaborate with other first-year organizations, like the EUS Junior Council. He worked on the SSMU Executive Roadmap, and held office hours everyday from 14:30-16:00. He is planning to do travelling office hours to increase collaboration between faculties and SSMU. VP Internal Affairs Barlas sits on the Executive Committee, the Board, the CKUT Board, the Senate Committee on Physical Development, and SSPN. He stands for questions.

#### c. VP External Affairs

VP External Affairs Gaither presents his report. He attended the UCRU Board meeting, a group of the top 15 research-intensive universities in Canada. They advocate federally, and are planning a lobby week. He met with associations across Quebec, and student unions on campus. He is looking into helping AGSEM with their campaign. VP External Affairs Gaither is looking to hire a Francophone Affairs Commissioner. The student housing building's funding was approved, and they can move forward with construction with a potential move-in date of September 2026. Community Engagement Day is coming up on October 26. Divest McGill met with the Board of Governors, and the timeline for the vote on divestment has been moved up to December, and it is looking favourable. Let's Eat McGill had their first meeting, after doing research all summer. He met with the Kahnistensera (Mohawk Mothers) to discuss avenues for solidarity with their protests, and sent a letter about how McGill hides this story within their publications. He is also working on a critical campus tour.

#### d. VP Student Life

VP Student Life Dakdouki presents her report. She has been reviewing club processes and hopes to streamline them. She created a Clubs Guidebook. Student group bookings guidelines were sent out. A Services Guidebook was also created. She spent most of the summer planning Activities Night, and it was mostly successful other than a mix-up with McGill Athletics about the entrance. Club workshops also began, and the SSMU Daycare is doing well. There is discussion with PGSS about a Homework Hour for families. The Mental Health Committee is meeting every week, and is working on great things. There was a Get Involved workshop for incoming students, and SSMU tabled at Discover McGill. She sits on two Senate committees.

#### e. VP University Affairs

VP University Affairs Katchelewa presents her report. Student senators for faculties were elected, and the Senate Caucus and committees started meeting. She sits on many Senate committees herself. She has been meeting with the Deputy Provost and the Dean of Students, and will meet with the President soon. Food insecurity and a sense of community across campus are the main points of discussion. SSMU's committees are starting to get rolling, many of which VP University Affairs Katchelewa sits on. She oversees the HR department with the President, and covers some of the VP Finance's duties. She



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represents Indigenous Affairs, who advocate for the Mohawk Mothers. The Know Your Rights campaign is being worked on. The OER and Library Funds are running, and the Library Fund provided furniture to the Schulich library.

Councillor Fournier asks what the critical campus tour is.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa responds that the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner gives a tour of McGill with Indigenous stories that have not been told. It is still in its burgeoning phase, but it is an alternative tour that would provide historically accurate information on the land the University is on.

Councillor Rajan asks what the mental wellness course will look like.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa answers that it is a course about taking care of one's own mental wellness. She isn't sure when it will take place, but it will be a 300-level course with guest speakers and up-to-date literature about happiness. It is a remix of the Harvard class about happiness.

#### f. VP Sustainability & Operations

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly presents her report. She works on buildings, operations, and sustainability. She reformed the Buildings and Operations Committee, and she wants some Directors on the committee. They conducted an accessibility audit of the building, to outline what changes they need to make. They have a new cleaning company, and revamped the space agreement with groups on the 4th floor and student groups. Les Fermes du Marché is the first pop-up. She also works on student group event contracts, and revised how room bookings and rental costs are done. She has been looking into implementation of gender-neutral bathrooms in the UC. VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly has been working on the Management Agreement and Minicourses. Gerts has an expanded menu, and re-established branding guidelines, security protocols and the POS system. Sponsorships are being set up at the bar, and the Gerts' Ambassador Program is being set up. VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly stands for questions.

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#### Question:

Proxy Ben Rejeb asks if there are plans to open the cafeteria in the building.

#### Answer:

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly answers that this has always been a long-term goal of SSMU, they just need to figure out the details and what options they want to offer.

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### Question:

Councillor Baybayon asks about the Trans 101 training.

### Answer:

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly answers that she has been working with the HR department for staff to receive Trans 101 training, for them to be aware of others' identification.

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### 9. [Presentation from the Sustainability Project Fund](#)

The Associate Director for the Office of Sustainability (Shona), and the SPF Ambassador (Amal) and the SSMU Representative of the Governance Council (Cameron) present the SPF Annual Report.

Amal states that SPF has allocated \$12,000,000 in funding and approved 338 projects since its creation in 2010. It is one of the largest sustainability projects in North America, and the largest in Canada. It is unique in its commitment to students and staff, as well as its financing and leadership. Every 5 years, the SPF must be renewed by the three student societies. Students pay \$0.55/credit, which is matched dollar for dollar by McGill. All Societies voted to keep the SPF for another 5 years. The Sustainability Soiree was held to showcase funded projects, and the SSN brought students together for a networking and brainstorming event.

Shona presents the SPF's funding over the last few years. If money is not used in a given year, it is thrown back into the fund for next year. The Governance Council approved all allocations. Since 2009, there has been \$12,200,000 available. Any staff, student, or faculty can apply to the SPF; this year there was a record number of applications. There have been 612 applications, and 55% were approved. This year, there were 64 applications, and 64% of those were approved, the highest number of projects approved ever.

Cameron states that that the Tiny Stream provides funding of \$300 or less, and this year they approved 5 Tiny Streams projects, including a community garden, clothing swaps, needle recycling, and a sustainability module. 6 projects were approved under \$5,000, including a lunch conference, a sustainable festival in Barbados, an engineering event and a management conference. They approved 13 projects over \$5,000, including a sustainable menstrual product project, a carpooling project, composting in residences, an educational event, a sustainable rocket project, and a lab recycling initiative.

Shona states that they received 27 reports of projects, and the Fund has had some important impacts this year. The SPF is focused on collaboration between students, faculty, and staff, who make up the



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Governance Council. There are 2 SSMU representatives, 1 PGSS representative, 1 MCSS representative, 2 academic representatives, and 2 administrative representatives. They also have a team of volunteers. If anyone has any ideas for a project on campus, Shona is happy to meet. More details on the report is available on the SPF website.

The Speaker entertains a question period on the presentation.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa asks if the requirement that projects only apply to the Fund once will ever be waived.

Shona answers that the mandate provides seat funding. Projects can re-apply if they expand their scope or add something new.

### 10. Announcements:

- a. Fall General Assembly next Monday, October 2nd (Parliamentarian Pennel)

Parliamentarian Pennel announces that the General Assembly is coming up on Monday, October 2 at 18:00.

- b. VP Finance By-Election (President Ashkir)

President Ashkir announces that the VP Finance By-Elections' nomination period has been open since September 18, and closes on October 2. If anyone wants to join the SSMU Executive team, please apply.

- c. Elections for First-Year Council (President Ashkir)

President Ashkir announces that the election for the First-Year Council and Clubs and Services have been on since September 26, and the campaign period ends on October 6.

- d. Welcome and Introduction of new General Manager, Maya Marcus-Sells (President Ashkir)

President Ashkir welcomes the new General Manager, Maya.

The General Manager introduces herself.

### 11. Question Period:



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The Speaker states that they have not received any questions beforehand, so they can take questions from the floor.

a. GA Proxies

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**Question:**

Councillor Foxman asks if they cannot attend the General Assembly, if they should send a proxy from their faculty.

**Answer:**

The Governance Manager answers that Councillors attend the General Assembly as SSMU members, so they don't need to send proxies.

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b. SSMU Statement Signature

**Question:**

Councillor Fournier asks who is responsible for authoring and consulting groups prior to releasing statements on SSMU's behalf.

**Answer:**

VP External Affairs Gaither answers that statements released this year were on behalf of the SSMU Executive, not SSMU as a whole. There may have been a mistake in the signature, and he will make sure that this is fixed for the next statement.

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Councillor Fournier states that this is the case for the statement released about the counter-protest, which was released on behalf of SSMU.

VP External Affairs Gaither states that the Executives will be more diligent about this.

The Speaker reminds everyone to speak through her so that she can call on people.

Councillor Gertsvolf states that this statement is signed off from SSMU. It is important to be clear about what is from SSMU and what is from the Executive. It should be kept consistent throughout the statement, because this can cause confusion among students.





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The Speaker reminds everyone that this is a question period and not a debate period.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa answers that the email was sent by the Executive Committee, so it might be an issue of perception. There is no signature from SSMU, except the logo. The intent and messaging makes it clear that it is from SSMU's Executive.

VP Student Life Dakdouki adds that any statements are based on their positions, which have been passed by the Council and Board. A signature should clear up who is signing the statements.

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**Question:**

Councillor Gertsvolf asks if members and SSMU bodies support its positions, or if the Executive Committee does.

**Answer:**

VP Student Life Dakdouki answers that Councillor Gertsvolf should look in the positions book; it clarifies that SSMU supports various positions that were approved via democratic vote.

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12. Recess

The Speaker entertains a recess.

The Governance Manager clarifies that the first two (2) motions cannot be voted on by consent because they need to be edited.

President Ashkir states that the two items on the agenda require further action.

13. Old Business:

- a. Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Standing Rules for the 2023-2024 Legislative Council – **APPROVED**

President Ashkir presents Motion 13a. He yields his time to the Dais.

The Speaker states that this Motion presents the Standing Rules, an additional set of rules to help meetings run smoother. The rules are presented in the appendix, and she invites everyone to read them. The Speaker stands for questions.



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Seeing no questions, the Speaker entertains debate.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa motions to amend the Motion to change the terms of attendance for senate representatives, to allow them to switch representatives every two meetings.

Councillor Gertsvolf seconds this motion.

President Ashkir asks if the Governance Manager was consulted.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa states that she consulted with the Governance Manager earlier today, and she suggested that senate representatives change every two meetings.

The Parliamentarian asks where the amendment should go.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa answers that it should go in the attendance/proxy section about senators.

The Speaker answers that this is section 3.4. There is nothing in there about senators in particular, but they could add a sub-point.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa suggests amending section 3.4.1. or 3.4.3 to expand the terms of proxies.

The Parliamentarian asks VP University Affairs Katchelewa to specify the wording.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa asks the Speaker if she thinks that the exception could be made for senators, or if it would have to be expanded to all Councillors.

The Speaker answers that it is fine to make the exception for senators only.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa specifies the wording of her amendment.

The Parliamentarian asks for clarification.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa states that senators would have to sit in two meetings in a row before switching.

The Speaker asks for clarification.



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VP University Affairs Katchelewa answers that if the representative sends a proxy, they would have to attend two meetings in a row.

The Speaker states that this wording makes sense.

VP Student Life Dakdouki states that there is a clause that does not make sense in the amendment. She proposes a wording change.

The Speaker asks VP University Affairs Katchelewa if she is amenable to this change.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa answers yes.

Seeing no further points, the Speaker entertains a vote on the amendment by unanimous consent.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment is made.

Councillor Shannon motions to amend section 3.8. The word “spirit” should be taken out because it is clearer.

Councillor Gertsvolf seconds this motion.

The Speaker entertains a debate period on the amendment. She asks Councillor Shannon which section should be amended.

Councillor Shannon answers that it is section 3.8.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa asks why this amendment should be made.

Councillor Shannon states that the wording is inconsistent, because they want people to make statements that respect both the Quebec and Canadian charters. Using “the spirit” of the Canadian charter is ambiguous and can lead to misinterpretation.

Seeing no further debate, the Speaker entertains a vote by unanimous consent.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment is made.

VP Internal Affairs Barlas notes that the wrong section was taken out for the last amendment.

The Parliamentarian asks what part she should take out.



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VP Internal Affairs Barlas clarifies what needs to be taken out.

Councillor Rajan motions to amend section 5.4. They should clarify that members of the gallery can participate in-person and online.

President Ashkir seconds this amendment.

The Speaker entertains debate on the amendment.

VP Student Life Dakdouki suggests that this be made a sub-point.

The Speaker asks Councillor Rajan if she is amenable to this.

Councillor Rajan is amenable to this.

VP Student Life Dakdouki states that they should clarify that members can participate in debate and discussion and the part about virtual meetings can be the sub-point.

Councillor Rajan is amenable to this.

VP Student Life Dakdouki precises the amendment of section 5.4.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment is made.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa motions to call the question.

Councillor Shannon seconds the motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote.

President Ashkir motions to change the method of voting to unanimous consent.

Councillor Gertsvolf seconds this motion.

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

Seeing no opposition, Motion 13.a is approved.

14. New Business:



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a. Motion Regarding the Legislative Council Committee Allocations 2023-2024 –  
**APPROVED**

President Ashkir presents Motion 14a. Every year, this motion is presented, requesting that all Councillors sit on a Council committee. They are essential to the functioning of democracy on campus, as they provide consultation and focus on actions on a variety of topics. He invites those who were not able to sign up for a committee to do so during this meeting. In committees where more than one person nominated themselves for a single seat, they will do a short debate to pick candidates. President Ashkir stands for questions.

VP Student Life Dakdouki reminds everyone that clubs and services are the highest priority at SSMU as per their policy, and the Clubs, Services, and Services Review Committees currently have no Councillors sitting on it. If they could prioritize these committees that would be great.

Seeing no questions, the Speaker entertains debate period.

President Ashkir motions to suspend the rules, to allow the Speaker to assign Councillors to committees.

Councillor Shannon seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the rules are suspended.

The Speaker states that she will go through the list of committees to assign Councillors. If there are too many people for the seat on a given committee, she will entertain a short debate period followed by a vote.

President Ashkir states that all Councillors must sit on a committee. Councillors should have a back-up committee in mind in case the seat they want is filled.

VP Student Life Dakdouki asks to do the Clubs, Services, and Services Review Committee first.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa asks what the requirement is.

The Speaker answers that all Councillors must sit on one committee. They can sit on multiple committees if they want.

Councillor Shannon suggests doing the run-off debates first.



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The Speaker asks VP Student Life Dakdouki if she is amenable to this.

VP Student Life Dakdouki answers yes.

The Speaker entertains a 1-minute debate on the Black Affairs Committee seat.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa states that she should sit on this committee because she participates in other activities regarding black advocacy for students. She thinks that she would contribute to the committee, and she looks favourably on helping the Black Affairs Commissioner.

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly states that she sat on this committee last year and works closely with the Commissioner. She was consulted on new additions, and works closely on the Black Equity Fund. She also has wide knowledge of black student groups on campus, and the Black Affairs Commissioner requested that she sit on this committee. She would be happy to let VP University Affairs Katchelewa sit on this committee.

The Speaker entertains a vote.

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly withdraws from the Black Affairs Committee.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa is assigned to the Black Affairs Committee.

The Speaker entertains a 1-minute debate on the Equity Committee.

Councillor Foster states that she wants to withdraw and join the Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Committee.

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly asks to pick her committee.

The Speaker answers yes.

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly assigns herself to the SSAMOSA Committee.

The Speaker entertains a 1-minute debate on the Equity Committee.

Councillor Baybayon states that he is passionate about equity at McGill. He worked on many initiatives involving equity, LGBTQ+ inclusion. Last year, he served on the EDI Working Group and he loves the work they are doing. He has also been involved in student governance in AUS and SSMU.



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The Speaker asks Proxy Ben-Rejeb if they want to speak on Councillor Pastrana's behalf.

Proxy Ben-Rejeb states that Councillor Pastrana is an advocate for many communities, and she is part of Queer McGill. She would do a great job on the Equity Committee. She asks to postpone this vote until Councillor Pastrana is present.

The Speaker is unsure if this can be done procedurally.

VP Student Life Dakdouki suggests that if all candidates sign up for another committee, this can be done. Otherwise, it would prevent other Councillors from signing up for a committee.

Proxy Ben-Rejeb asks what it means for senators to sit on committees, since they will be coming to the Council on a rotating basis.

President Ashkir answers that the senator would have to sit on the committee on a non-rotating basis.

Proxy Ben-Rejeb asks if two senators would need to sign up for a committee.

President Ashkir answers that two senators would assign themselves to a committee each.

The Speaker entertains a vote.

Councillor Baybayon is assigned to the Equity Committee.

Councillor Gertsvolf asks for a summary of the Clubs Committee.

The Speaker states that all information is on the SSMU website, under the Legislative Council section. She states that Councillor Rylo is sitting on the Services Review Committee, so they need one more Councillor.

Seeing no nominations, the Speaker moves onto the next committee.

VP Student Life Dakdouki states that the Clubs Committee reviews all new club applications, so if a Councillor wants to be more involved in student life this is a good way to do it. They are also looking into changing how clubs are approved. The Services Review Committee is also important because they review all services that have fees. She states that she will motion to delay this motion if no one nominates themselves. Clubs have already reached out about the delay in their approval, and the Committee can't really operate right now without Councillors.



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**Question:**

Councillor Rajan asks if Councillors can join multiple committees.

**Answer:**

The Speaker answers that technically there is no limit, but everyone must sit on at least one committee. She suggests that they assign everyone to one committee, and then if Councillors want to assign themselves to additional committees they can. They can also join as members at large if all the seats are full.

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**Question:**

VP University Affairs Katchelewa asks if they are checking with people online.

**Answer:**

The Speaker answers yes.

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President Ashkir suggests going through Councillors who have not assigned themselves to a committee.

Councillor Qian assigns himself to the Finance Committee.

President Ashkir suggests keeping the senate seats empty for now.

Councillor Gertsvolf states that when he was asking about the Clubs Committee, he was not nominating himself. He assigns himself to the Governance Reform Committee.

The Speaker states that Councillor Porter is sitting on the Affordable Student Housing Committee and they need one more seat.

VP External Affairs Gaither states that the Affordable Student Housing Committee does a lot of work concerning Bill 31 and other initiatives.

Seeing no nominations, the Speaker moves onto the Community Engagement Committee.

Councillor Rajan nominates herself to the Clubs Committee.





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The Speaker states that Councillors can assign themselves to multiple committees at this time.

Seeing no nominations, the Speaker moves onto the EDI Working Group. She states that EDI stands for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The working group will be dissolved once they finish their project. Councillor Baybayon nominates themselves to the EDI Working Group.

The Speaker moves onto the Governance Reform Committee.

VP External Affairs Gaither nominates himself.

The Speaker moves onto the Finance Committee.

Seeing no nominations, the Speaker moves onto the Funding Committee.

Seeing no nominations, the Speaker moves onto the Services Review Committee.

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly states that the Funding Committee takes care of all the funds of the Society. They approve funding applications, and cannot do so without Councillors. It is quite a fun committee, so she encourages Councillors to sit on it.

Seeing no nominations, the Speaker moves onto the Steering Committee. She states that the Steering Committee is made up of the Dais, the Governance Manager, and President Ashkir. They go over documents to make sure everything is in order. They meet before every Council meeting.

Seeing no nominations, the Speaker moves onto SSPN.

Councillor Baybayon nominates themselves to SSPN.

The Speaker moves onto SSAMOSA.

Councillor Rajan nominates herself to the Accessibility Committee.

The Speaker asks everyone if they have a committee.

President Ashkir asks to go through all the committees to make sure they have at least one Councillor on them.

The Speaker states that the Community Engagement and Funding Committee are empty.



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Councillor Rajan nominates herself to the Funding Committee.

President Ashkir states that the Community Engagement Committee is not very time consuming, and it is important to those who live around campus. He encourages anyone who is local to join.

The Speaker resumes normal procedure.

VP External Affairs Gaither asks for Councillors to be assigned to the External Affairs Committee.

The Parliamentarian states that this committee is not on the list.

VP External Affairs Gaither states that it should be, as it is a new committee.

The Speaker states that they need a motion to amend to add the committee to the list. She asks VP External Affairs Gaither how many Councillors need to sit on the committee.

VP External Affairs Gaither motions to amend.

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly answers that it requires two councillors.

Councillor Shannon seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the amendment is made.

VP External Affairs Gaither states that the External Affairs Committee was created to advise the External Affairs department on political and external affairs. It is composed of VP Externals from faculties, so having Councillors on there is helpful.

Councillor Shannon asks if he should nominate himself to this committee since he is his faculty's VP External.

The Speaker is unsure if this counts as his committee allocation.

President Ashkir states that he is already on the committee, so he can't sign up twice for the same committee.

The Parliamentarian reminds everyone that the Council is not fully elected, so when that happens all the committee seats will be filled.



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Proxy Ben-Rejeb asks how they can be allocated to a committee after the motion is approved.

President Ashkir states that they will be bringing this motion back to the Council when they hear back from the Senate Caucus and others. It will be voted on as an amended version.

The Speaker entertains a short recess.

Councillor Shannon motions to call the question.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa seconds this motion.

President Ashkir changes the method of voting to unanimous consent.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 14.a is approved.

b. Motion Regarding the Legislative Council Nominations to the Board of Directors  
2023-2024 – **APPROVED**

President Ashkir presents Motion 14.b. They need four Council members to sit on the Board, the highest governing body of SSMU. They make many final decisions, concerning financial and legal matters, and things that pass through the Council and General Assemblies. The Board is composed of four voting Executives, four members at large, and four Councillors. Sitting on the Board is a unique experience and he encourages Councillors to nominate themselves.

Councillor Rajan asks if Councillors need to be Canadian citizens to sit on the Board.

President Ashkir answers yes, because SSMU holds an alcohol permit.

VP Internal Affairs Barlas adds that citizens, permanent residents, or refugees can sit on the Board.

Seeing no further questions, the Speaker entertains debate.

President Ashkir motions to suspend the rules.

Councillor Shannon seconds this motion.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa asks why they are suspending the rules.

The Speaker answers that they are suspending the rules in order to add people to the Board.



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Seeing no opposition, the rules are suspended.

Councillor Rajan asks what the time commitment is.

The Speaker answers that it is every 2 weeks on Thursday.

President Ashkir adds that Board meetings take place on Thursdays that don't have Council meetings.

VP Student Life Dakdouki states that they need representation on the Board to be democratic. Last year, the Council did a lock-in until people were nominated to the Board, which is an option this year.

The Speaker does not encourage this; she encourages people to nominate themselves.

Councillor Shannon asks if meetings are in-person or virtual.

The Speaker answers that they are in-person, with the option of joining on Zoom.

President Ashkir motions to suspend the procedure until four Councillors appoint themselves.

Seeing no second, the motion does not stand.

President Ashkir states that 3 of 4 councillors on the Board will start in November, and they need one person to start as soon as the motion is passed because there is an empty spot. Student voices should be heard at the highest point, particularly when there is diversity of thought and opinion. Sitting on a Board looks great on a resume as well. It is an opportunity to share opinions and those of constituents. They have had exceptional directors in the past, who made real change. People left their mark on McGill through the Board. President Ashkir encourages people to sit on the Board. It is a time commitment, but a worthwhile one.

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly states that she is the only person on the Board who cannot vote, which is not fun. Right now, the Board is made up of mostly Executives, so they have supremacy on the Board. If Councillors ever disagree with Executives, they could vote against them at the Board level.

VP Student Life Dakdouki proposes going through all the Councillors to hear their refusal on the record. It is the Executive's responsibility to make sure they have accurate representation. She reminds everyone that they have a representative responsibility. She asks if she needs to motion for this.



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The Speaker answers that there is no motion for this, so she will just entertain it.

General Manager Marcus-Sells states that the Board is the highest authority of SSMU's management. The staff are very affected by the decisions that the Board makes. She herself reports to the Board, and she would love to see more student representation.

Parliamentarian Pennel adds that the Board takes guests, so if people are unsure they can attend meetings as members.

Councillor Shannon asks if he should join even if his schedule conflicts with the meetings in the Winter semester.

President Ashkir states that he can resign in the Winter semester. If no one wishes to sit on the Board, he encourages Councillor Shannon to nominate himself. The resignation process to the Board is simple, it is done through email.

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly suggests going through the list and asking everyone to explain why they can't join the Board.

VP University Affairs Katchelewa suggests that Councillors who can't join the Board attend as guests.

President Ashkir states that they need at least one Councillor by the end of the meeting. Three people are finishing their term at the end of November, so this motion can be brought back to the Council.

Proxy Ben-Rejeb asks how long the meetings run.

President Ashkir answers that it depends, but this semester they have been running very short. It depends on what is going on on campus and the priorities.

Proxy Ben-Rejeb asks if there is a minimum number of meetings that they need to attend.

President Ashkir answers that if a member misses 2 meetings they will be asked to resign.

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly clarifies that members are responsible for any decisions that are made in their absence.

Councillor Shannon nominates himself to the Board, but he will need to resign in the Winter and might not be able to make it to a few meetings in the Fall.



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Proxy Ben-Rejeb nominates herself to the Board.

President Ashkir notes that they will need to figure this out with the Senate, because Councillor Ben-Rejeb will need to be the permanent representative on the Board.

The Speaker asks VP Student Life Dakdouki if she still wants to go through the list.

VP Student Life Dakdouki answers yes.

The Speaker goes through the list.

Councillor Porter does not want to nominate himself because it is not one of his areas of interest.

Councillor Rajan is an international student and can't sit on the Board.

Councillor Baybayon states that he would like to appoint himself, but he has a lot on his plate right now.

Councillor Sakajiri is not comfortable with the time commitment of the Board.

Councillor Foster is doing an internship next semester so she would not be able to. Plus, she is a temporary Council representative.

Councillor Rylo is not interested in this position.

Councillor Qian is an international student and can't sit on the Board.

Councillor Grall-Johnson will be working in a hospital come January, and does not have time to sit on the Board.

Councillor Zukerman does not have enough time to commit to the role.

Councillor Foxman does not want to spread herself too thin, and wants to commit herself to the committees she assigned herself to.

Councillor Fournier has many other commitments on Thursdays and cannot attend meetings.

Councillor Gertsvolf has other academic and work commitments that would interfere with his commitment to this position.



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The Speaker moves back into regular debate. She notes that it is 21:00, their end time.

Councillor Porter motions to postpone this motion until the next meeting.

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly motions to put aside the orders of the day.

Councillor Ben-Rejeb seconds VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly's motion.

President Ashkir opposes this motion.

The Speaker entertains a vote by placard.

President Ashkir suggests passing this, to allow Councillor Shannon to sit on the Board. They can bring this motion back to the Council.

Councillor Gertsvolf motions to call the question on Motion 14b.

VP External Affairs Gaither seconds this motion.

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

Seeing no opposition, Motion 14b is approved.

15. Adjournment: **21:03**

The Speaker declares the meeting adjourned at 21:03.

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Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President 2023-2024