



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 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PUBLIC MINUTES

October 26, 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, October 26, 2023 at 18:00.

1. Call to Order: **18:21**

The Speaker calls the meeting to order at 18:21.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Speaker presents the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Attendance

The Speaker takes attendance. He asks someone to join the Zoom meeting so that people on Zoom can hear those speaking in person.

Present: Councillors Porter, Rajan, Sakajiri, Tai, Chemaly, Yang, Rylo, Wehbe, Duncan, Shannon, Nitu, Grall-Johnson, Mabia, Zukerman, Foxman (proxy Amelia Whitcomb), Gertsvolf, Fournier, Pastrana (proxy Grace Parish), Maselli, President Ashkir, VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly, VP Internal Affairs Barlas, VP Student Life Dakdouki, VP External Affairs Gaither, VP University Affairs Katchelewa, General Manager Marcus-Sells

Absent: Councillors Mezni, McMechan, Qian

4. Adoption of the Agenda – **FOR ADOPTION**

The agenda is distributed.

VP Student Life Dakdouki moves Motions 15.c, 15.e, and 15.g to the top of New Business.

Councillor Whitcomb seconds this change.



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

VP Student Life Dakdouki clarifies that she wants to move the SNAC, CKUT and Safety Services motions.

Seeing no opposition, the change is made.

VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly asks to postpone motion 15.a.

The Speaker states that they can discuss postponement once they get to that point on the agenda.

The Parliamentarian asks VP Student Life Dakdouki to repeat the motions she wants to move.

The Speaker clarifies that she wants to move the SNAC, CKUT and Safety Services motions.

Seeing no further changes additions, the Agenda is adopted.

5. Minutes for Approval:

- a. SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2023-10-12 – **APPROVED**

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

6. Reports by Councillors:

- a. Management (MUS)

Councillor Nitu presents the Management Report. She states that their U0 and U1 Board representatives have been elected. The President completed the HR Handbook, and if anyone wants a copy they can talk to her. Executives are looking into help from the faculty with case competitions. VP Finance is working on outstanding balances, and they probably will not be able to afford an audit this year. VP Academic has been discussing the removal of the grading curve and what this will look like for professors. The MUS is aligning itself with the Faculty's new strategy and communication campaign. VP Internal is centralizing their communications through Teams for clubs and committees. Club Council has been going on. VP Communications is going to promote MUS resources through podcasts and short-format videos. VP Events is working on the concert series, and VP Corporate Relations recruited consultants and is working on sponsors for JDC. If other faculties want to help with competitions, that would be great. The Desautels Wellness Committee was established to work on wellness initiatives.

- b. Law (LSA)



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

Councillor Shannon presents the Law Report. The biggest issue in the Law Faculty this year is their inflated budget from last year, due to some overall funding. Now, some clubs are upset about cut budgets. Fall Elections successfully filled all positions, and their events are going well. Frosh broke records for attendance since the pandemic, and the Coffeehouse has very high attendance. Monday Mocha is a weekly event that allows students to get to know law firms over coffee. They are planning a Med-Law Halloween event, and the Nursing Faculty has expressed interest in collaborating. Skit Night is coming back, where students and faculty perform skits to raise money for charity. The Law General Assembly is coming up, and they are pushing sustainability very strongly this year. The LSA President is working on an LSA Plate Club to reduce disposables.

c. PT/OT (POTUS)

Councillor Zukerman presents the PTOT Report. She states that the SPOT faculty talked to them about an allowance for POTUS, and worked on the Name-Tag Ceremony in April. The Presidents are working on the Wine and Cheese networking event in the Winter. The Presidents also participated in the Roundtable, and spoke to SSMU about renewing their insurance. CPR courses are being planned. VP Communications is sending out newsletters and is planning Wellness Week. VP Academics are working on PT and OT Days. VP Internal organized the welcome back BBQ, and is working on a Halloween event. VP Wellness is attending the Mental Health Roundtable this month, and VP Equity is planning Wellness Week and the Equity Helpline Project. VP External is attending SSMU Council meetings, and campaigning for the eradication of unpaid internships. She is also planning the 2024 OTPT Games in Chicoutimi. General information is being provided via reports to students, and the POTUS General Meeting is tonight.

7. Report of the Steering Committee

The Speaker presents the Report of the Steering Committee. They met on Monday to review and approved motions for tonight, including new and old business. He informs the council that there is a confidential session tonight, during which they will ask members of the gallery to leave and come back when it has elapsed.

8. Reports by Committees:

a. Black Affairs Committee

The Black Affairs Commissioner, Claire, presents the Black Affairs Committee Report. They state that the committee convenes monthly to discuss what the black student groups are up to. They also review funding applications for the Black Equity Fund. They discussed collaboration with Blaxpo, 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

conference, and found an avenue for future conferences for students. There is some money available, which is good. A Black Alumni event is being planned with MASS and MBAA. Projects include critical campus tours, the Howard Symposium, which took place earlier this month and discussed a possible visit to HBCU, a traditionally black university in the US. The Black Student Symposium is going to take place soon and will include students from Université de Montréal and Concordia University, as well as CEGEPs across the province. The Black Student Toolkit will be updated, for more resources and opportunities for students. The ABR working group has been discussing anti-black racism on campus, and discussions have been had about funding student groups. There was also a discussion about a possible statement from the Black Students' Network about Israel-Palestine, but they decided not to publish one. The Committee is working on EDI training for each faculty, and they want to establish a black graduate student group with PGSS. A form was finally set up, so students can now properly access applications to the Black Equity Fund.

b. Affordable Student Housing Committee

VP External Affairs Gaither presents the Affordable Student Housing Committee. The Committee has met once, which was created to discuss affordable housing at McGill. SSMU Members pay the UTILE fee, and they have collected \$1,500,000 over five (5) years to put into the construction of a student housing building that will open in 2026. They discussed the Housing and Jobs Office at Concordia, and its impact on students and potential advantages at McGill. CSU Executives noted that the McGill usage of that office is burdensome, so bringing something similar to McGill would be important. The Committee also encouraged students to collaborate with the Montreal Autonomous Tenants' Union, to attempt to solve housing issues between tenants and landlords.

9. Executive Reports:

a. President Ashkir

President Ashkir presents his report. He has been doing a lot of advocacy work and meetings this week. If anyone has any questions about his work, they can reach out to him.

b. VP University Affairs

VP University Affairs Katchelewa presents her report. She states that the first Menstrual Health Pick Up was successful, and more stock was ordered due to student demand. They are also putting a greater variety of products in the SSMU building. The for-credit psychology and wellness course was approved, and will be available in the Winter. She is working on the promotion of Open Educational Resources, which includes free textbooks and test materials. There is an ongoing collaboration with Let's Eat McGill, SSMU Senators, and External Affairs to work on a solution to high food prices on



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

campus. She met with SSMU Alumni and MAUT, where they discussed the tuition hikes with senators and professors. She went to a McGill Senate meeting, and the Executives met with Principal Saini and Deputy Provost Fabrice Labeau. Selection of the VP Research & Innovation was chosen, and she is looking to complete the nomination of a new VP Finance.

c. VP Internal Affairs

VP Internal Affairs Barlas presents his report. He states that SSPN's next event is planned for November 30, 2023. He is working on planning Fac-O and looking into a possible partnership with AUS. SSPN currently has 11 members, and they are looking for 2 more Legislative Councillors to join the Committee. FYC began. VP Internal Affairs Barlas began his travelling office hours, and is working on posting Instagram reels in collaboration with TVM.

10. Question Period:

a. Question from a Constituent

Councillor Pastrana arrives at 18:55.

The Speaker reads out the question from the constituent:

"I am a Co-Captain of McGill Robotics, an EUS Design Team. I am here to ask about a change made to the funding guidebook in August as it greatly impacts our team as well as every Design Team at the EUS.

I believe this change failed to consider the needs of our teams and that it could lead to a total collapse in our ability to exist as a club. On August 21st, the SSMU Funding Handbook was updated such that "No more than 5% of any fund, or \$5,000 (whichever is higher) can go to one group or organization in a year" (Section 1.7). This is a big change from the previous year's handbook which stated that "No more than 15% of any fund can go to one group or organization in a year" (Section 1.7).

McGill Robotics goes to three competitions in a year, one for each of our robots. We sent dozens of our members to represent McGill in Drumheller, San Diego, and Maryland. Moreover, McGill Robotics hosts a yearly hackathon called RoboHacks which last year had +150 participants and more than a dozen private companies from all over the city attend. In order to pay for flights, hotels, rental cars, etc. through the Ambassador Fund for our competitions and the classroom bookings, food, materials, etc. through the Community Engagement Fund for RoboHacks we need to know that the SSMU will be willing to fund us. Not via the nerve racking process of waiting for an exception, but by guaranteeing in the rules that our funds will be met (after the required due diligence from the Funding Committee of course).



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

So I'd like to ask the following questions and ask that you answer them to the best of your abilities today and return in two weeks at the next meeting with the answer of any question that eludes you in this moment:

1. *Why was the SSMU Funding Handbook 2023-2024 updated to limit grants to \$5000 or 5% of a grant's total funds per club?"*

Question:

VP Student Life Dakdouki asks if there is a time limit to answering the question, and if everyone can hear her.

Answer:

The Speaker answers that they can hear her, and there is a 5-minute time limit on question period.

VP Student Life Dakdouki explains that she consulted the Funding Commissioner about this, and she answers that they have been operating with a significant deficit since the pandemic COVID-19. So, they've been able to fund large events because many others took place online, without having to worry about running out of money in the Clubs Fund. Last year, with the 15% rule and the surplus they still had, they used up all the funds: Clubs, Campus Life, Ambassador and Community Engagement. They made this decision to ensure that funding lasts longer and is spread over more groups by cutting the maximum amount of money that can be given to one club from 15% of any fund to 5%.

2. *"What reason was given in particular for reducing the percentage of a grant per team from 15% to 5%?"*

They have a third of the money in the fund this year, so they cut the maximum funding in from 15% to a maximum of \$5,000, which is more than 15% of any given fund. They can choose the limit if they feel that many events apply for the maximum amount of funding.

3. *"What is the process by which the SSMU Funding Handbook 2023-2024 is updated in a given year?"*

The SSMU Funding Handbook is updated by VP Student Life, VP Finance, the Funding Commissioner and Committee in a given year if they notice that a process is not working properly. This is pursuant to IRs of Finance section 5.2.4, which states that the Funding Committee can create additional



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

requirements for funding applications as long as they fit with the complimentary requirements. The cap is needed so as to not burn out the fund.

4. *“What is the consultation process for updating the yearly SSMU Funding Handbook?”*

Consultations were done with last year’s Funding Committee, because they ran out of money in most funds at the end of the year. It was also discussed with VP Student Life Dakdouki and the current Funding Committee.

5. *“Given that we only heard about this change two days before this legislative meeting, do you believe the consultation process (if there is one) for the yearly update of the SSMU Funding Handbook is democratic?”*

VP Student Life Dakdouki believes that the consultation process is democratic. The Funding Committee has a democratic representation, and financial considerations are made as well. The Commissioner has 4 years of experience, which gives them the most hands-on experience with the fund and they know best how the money should be given.

6. *“Given that the rule in question stipulates a cap of 5% of a given fund per club, it is imperative that we know how much money is in each fund. So how much is it?”*

This was supposed to be presented by the VP Finance, and they just received the numbers so the amounts of the funds will be released soon, to help clubs decide how much they can apply for. Since she is out of time, she motions to extend the question period by 5 minutes.

Councillor Rylo seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the question period is extended by 5 minutes.

VP Student Life Dakdouki continues. She states that the Funding Commissioner gave her an estimate; the Ambassador Fund contains around \$30,000 and the Campus Life Fund contains \$45,000, both of which the Robotics Club might be interested in. If all groups apply for \$5,000, only 9 groups would get funding.

7. *“Do you understand that limiting the funding of clubs around the university puts an arbitrary cap on our capacity and ambitions, forcing us to scale down critical and important endeavors? In other words: Why is the size of a club not taken into consideration when determining the allocation of the funds?”*



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

They do understand that a limit in funding will limit club activities, but the amount of funding limits them. Clubs need to be self-sustaining to a certain degree, because SSMU funding is not always guaranteed, and they cannot give out the same amount all the time. There is nothing in their internal processes that considers the size of the club, and it would be difficult to do so because all groups and events are different and need different funding, so it is hard to compare. Some groups require trips, while some only require campus events; more people does not mean more expenses, necessarily. This process is very complicated because of the variety of applications they receive.

Question:

Councillor Parish asks if the Equity Commissioner or member of the Equity Committee was consulted, as this seems like an equity issue. This funding limit might force students to pay out of pocket for club trips.

Answer:

VP Student Life Dakdouki answers that they still give out all the money in the fund, but the limit allows them to give out money to more groups. The Equity Commissioner was not consulted on this, but they don't want to limit access to money, they just want to distribute it equally.

Question:

SSMU Member Vincent Boucher asks if this change was announced before the information was being put in the Funding Handbook. They found out about the change by reading the Funding Handbook when they attempted to apply for funding.

Answer:

VP Student Life Dakdouki answers that there was no announcement, partly because the VP Finance position is empty and partly because the funds' amount was not announced yet. It is in the guidebook, because everyone applying to funding must read it, and there is a box to confirm this on the funding application.

Question:

SSMU Member Jordan Cowie asks how many clubs exceeded the limit that made it necessary to change the rule last year.

Answer:



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

VP Student Life Dakdouki does not know, but she states that many clubs applied for \$5,000 (5%), the second biggest cap. All the information is published in the Funding Committee reports that are presented at the Legislative Council. She adds that a review of funding is needed, as it has been a long time since the IRs of Finance have been updated. Because of the surplus, there were no problems, but they no longer have a surplus so changes should be made. Fees need to be increased, because there is demand for more money. It helps campus life to have more money and events, and they plan to raise the fee at the Winter referendum.

11. Announcements:

a. Attendance & Proxy Policy - Speaker Dong

The Speaker reminds Councillors that they are tracking absences closely, and asks everyone to let the Dais know if they will be absent through the absences form as soon as they know that they will be absent, to allow the Dais to set up the proxy process.

b. Blue Fall Protest - VP External Affairs

VP External Affairs Gaither states that out-of-province and international tuition is set to increase next year, which will affect Anglophone universities and students from French-speaking countries outside France and Belgium. There is a protest on Monday, organized by a McGill student and a Concordia student. The Instagram page @bluefallprotest has all the information. The External Affairs portfolio supports this movement, and they launched a petition in collaboration with Bishop's University, which will be available by the end of the week. They will continue to push on this front, because the defence of accessible education is vital. VP External Affairs Gaither hopes that everyone can attend the protest.

12. Confidential Session:

The Speaker entertains a 3-minute recess to transition into the confidential session. He asks all guests to move into the cafeteria or Zoom waiting room.

13. Recess, Consent Items

The Speaker states that Motion 15.a was approved.

14. Old Business



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

- a. Motion Regarding an Interim Provision to the Internal Regulations of Elections & Referenda (IR-04) (VP External Affairs) – **POSTPONED**

President Ashkir motions to postpone this motion, pending further discussion with Elections SSMU.

Councillor Whitcomb seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 14a is postponed.

- a. Motion to Add a Question to the Fall Semester Referenda Regarding MUSTBUS Fee Increase (Councillor Porter) – **APPROVED PENDING ADDITION OF THE BUDGET**

Councillor Porter presents this motion. He states that he consulted with Elections SSMU, and multiple options were added to the question. There are now the options to vote for the increase itself, and whether it should be a \$1.00, \$2.00, or \$3.00 increase.

The Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Councillor Whitcomb asks for a budget to be attached to the motion and the referendum question itself. It is important for students to know how the group has spent and plans to spend its money.

Answer:

Councillor Porter answers that this information is in Appendix A. The information has been made available by MUSTBUS to the Legislative Council, and he asks the Dais if this can be added to the referendum question itself. He notes that this motion needs to be approved tonight to be added to the referendum. Students now have the option to choose the amount that the fee increases, so they can vote the question down if they are unsure. If there has to be further consultation, he would be concerned because the fee would be pushed back to the Winter referendum.

Councillor Whitcomb clarifies that Appendix A shows a budget for this semester, meaning that actual spending from last semester is not included. She states that she wants the actuals from last year to show spending from the club in its entire scope. She understands the urgency of the motion, but wants this information to be available.



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

Councillor Porter states that he does not have that information, but the appendix shows the planned spending, which is what students will be voting on. The most important information is included, and the Council can review the planned spending by MUSTBUS.

Seeing no further questions, the Speaker entertains debate.

Councillor Porter states that he is open to amendments, but stresses the importance of this being approved and added to the fall referendum.

Councillor Parish would prefer to see this motion pass pending the addition of actuals, because it can be done. Budgets have been attached to referendum questions in the past.

VP External Affairs Gaither thinks that this referendum will have a lot of questions, and throwing a budget in the referendum is not helpful to a voter. He asks what Councillors want specifically to see included in the budget.

Councillor Whitcomb states that it is valuable to understand previous spending to see that a fee increase is really needed. Most businesses require this, so it is not unreasonable to ask for actuals to be included.

Councillor Porter states that he does not have actuals, but has the proposed budget with a \$5.00 increase. This motion needs to pass at this meeting to be added to the referendum. Students have a lot to vote on and they have put in the effort to give students the choice about the fee, and MUSTBUS is being quite transparent as it is.

VP Student Life Dakdouki agrees that financial transparency is important, to allow students to access budgets if they want them. She sees Councillor Porter's point, and suggests adding this as an amendment and approving the motion pending the addition of the budget before the referendum deadline. She asks the Dais if this can be done.

Question:

The Speaker asks if the deadline to submit referendum questions is October 30.

Answer:

VP Student Life Dakdouki answers yes.



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 Speaker notes that if Councillor Porter can get the requested budget within the next two days, they can approve it by email. This would allow the motion to be passed in time for the referendum period.

VP Student Life Dakdouki states that MUSTBUS is an Independent Student Group, so it does not submit a budget and isn't audited by SSMU, so the inclusion of a budget is important because it has financial implications for students. She motions to approve pending the addition of the budget, and asks if this can be done.

The Speaker answers that this can be done.

VP Student Life Dakdouki motions to call the question pending the addition of a 2022-2023 budget on the referendum question.

Councillor Whitcomb seconds.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 14b is approved by unanimous consent.

The Speaker notes that an item that was previously consented to now has to be debated. He asks an Executive to contact VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly to ask her to present the motion. He notes that the time of adjournment has been reached.

President Ashkir motions to put aside the orders of the day until the end of the agenda.

Seeing no opposition, the orders of the day are put aside.

VP Student Life Dakdouki states that she sent VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly a message, but since she was given approval to leave she is unsure whether she will answer. She asks if Motion 15a needs to be presented, or if it can just be debated and questions can be answered.

The Speaker answers that the second can present the motion instead of VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly, but they can also yield to another Executive or Councillors. They can also postpone the motion if needed.

Question:



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

Councillor Sakajiri asks if there is an Executive who can present Motion 15a.

Answer:

VP Student Life Dakdouki and President Ashkir can present the motion.

15. New Business:

- a. Motion Regarding the Fall 2023 Budget Revision (VP Sustainability and Operations) –
APPROVED

Councillor Sakajiri yields his time to VP Student Life Dakdouki.

VP Student Life Dakdouki presents Motion 15.a. The budget revision is required every year, and in the absence of VP Finance, the VP Operations & Sustainability completed it. They are operating in a significant deficit this year, so they have been cutting down their operations. The presentation attached outlines the changes made. This budget needs to be approved as an operational budget for this year, and VP Student Life Dakdouki notes that there are many finances that could change. The Executive Committee and the Board of Directors will approve this budget. VP Student Life Dakdouki stands for questions.

Question:

VP University Affairs Katchelewa asks if they are going to present the slides associated with the budget.

Answer:

The Speaker clarifies that they should have been going through them during the presentation, but all Councillors have access to the slides and should have gone through them in preparation for the meeting.

President Ashkir states that the budget revision is usually presented formally, preceding the motion. He asks VP Student Life Dakdouki to present the slides.

The Speaker states that VP Student Life Dakdouki still has two minutes of speaking time, so she can present if she wants to.



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

VP Student Life Dakdouki notes that the presentation is available, and it is well broken down. She does not want to take extra time to read off the slides, because almost everyone consented to the Motion. If anyone wants her to go through it again, she can.

The Speaker asks if anyone wants VP Student Life Dakdouki to go through the slides.

The Speaker resumes the question period.

Seeing no questions, the Speaker entertains debate. He hopes there is debate since someone voted to debate it.

President Ashkir states that VP Sustainability and Operations Koulibaly has been expelled from the meeting, and asks for her to be let back in.

President Ashkir motions to call the question.

Councillor Whitcomb seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 15a is approved.

- b. Motion Regarding the Creation of the Student Nutrition Accessibility Club Fee (VP Student Life) – **APPROVED**

VP Student Life Dakdouki presents Motion 15b, which creates the new SNAC service. They have been working off of the Sustainability Fund right now, which is a one-time only fund. The service provides free boxes of produce to students, which helps alleviate hunger on campus. They want to put forward a fee to ensure that they can operate sustainably each year. SNAC is operating this semester, and there is an attached budget in the Motion. VP Student Life Dakdouki stands for questions.

The Speaker asks if anyone from SNAC is present.

Member Jordan Cowie is present on behalf of SNAC.

Question:

Councillor Whitcomb asks if SNAC was evaluated by the Services Review Committee last year, and if this information could be provided. She asks to see a budget from last year, even if SNAC was operating on a smaller scale.



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:

VP Student Life Dakdouki answers that there was no review because SNAC became a service at the end of last year, so this is the first semester that they are operating. She yields her time to the SNAC Representative.

Councillor Maselli leaves at 21:16.

Member Jordan Cowie, the Co-President of SNAC, answers that this is the first semester that SNAC is operating in full. Any budgets from 2022 would be from when they were operating as a club rather than as a service, with significantly decreased services. The Fall 2023 budget is the most relevant to their fee levy.

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

President Ashkir motions to call the question.

Councillor Sakajiri seconds this motion.

The Speaker asks President Ashkir how he would like to vote.

President Ashkir answers that he wants to vote by unanimous consent.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 15b is approved.

- c. Motion Regarding Safety Services Fee Increase Referendum Question (VP Student Life)
– **APPROVED**

VP Student Life Dakdouki presents Motion 15.c, to increase the MSERT fee. She yields her time to the MSERT members.

The MSERT Members are present and present Motion 15c. Kinsley, the Director of Finance and Conferences of MSERT, states that they are putting forward a motion to increase their fee for three reasons. They have been running free first aid courses for students with the help of an MOU from SSMU, which is no longer being renewed. This adds many costs to their operations. Because of inflation and increased medical costs, their base operations are more expensive. They have also had important training sessions and equipment that have gone out of date that needs to be renewed. There are four budgets in Appendix B, including last year's actuals.



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 Speaker entertains a question period.

Question:

Councillor Porter asks how many students use the free first aid courses.

Answer:

Kinsley answers that MSERT currently runs 14 regular and 6 emergency first aid courses. SFA courses have between 18-32 students, and EFA classes have 8-10 students. All courses have a waitlist of 10+ people, because it is hard to get first aid courses in English in Montreal.

Question:

Councillor Whitcomb thanks Kinsley for providing the actual budget. She states that this fee was increased last year, and notes that the fee itself is split into many different projects and services. She asks how the funds are distributed, as some run a surplus and funding could perhaps be redistributed.

Answer:

Kinsley answers that last Winter's motion allowed them to continue to offer free courses, because the MOU allowed them to do that. The amount they had asked for last winter was with the understanding that the MOU would continue. Now they know that the MOU is not going to continue, so they really cannot afford to continue offering free courses with the fee increase from last winter. Most of the money goes to operations including equipment like defibrillator strips, meals for volunteer respondents, who work 12 hour shifts twice a week, and training equipment and services for when emergencies happen on campus.

VP Student Life Dakdouki adds that transferring surpluses between services is not really fair to all services, so they do not plan to do this. Students are paying a certain fee for the services even if the Safety Services Fee is a single fee, so it might not actually be possible to redistribute it. The most recent fee increase included a consultation with VP Operations, who is concerned about a fee increase so close to the last one, especially without knowing the effects of last year's fee increase.

Question:



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

Councillor Pastana asks if there is a policy that can provide emergency funding for services like suicide training, especially considering the poor mental health services offered at McGill. Suicide training can be life-saving, so it should be equitably accessible.

Answer:

VP Student Life Dakdouki answers that she is confused about the question, because she is unsure what an exception would entail. Services are funded by the student body; services operate almost completely off that fee and if they want to expand their operations they must have students vote on a fee increase. She asks Councillor Pastrana to clarify their question.

Question:

Councillor Pastrana states that VP Student Life Dakdouki seems hesitant to increase the fee out of fairness to other clubs, and asks if this is correct.

Answer:

VP Student Life Dakdouki answers that this is incorrect, it was just noted by the VP Finance. It is risky to ask to renew a fee at every referendum period, but there would be no exception that needs to be made.

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

VP Student Life Dakdouki states that consultations are required for fee increases, and they do not always mean that someone agrees or disagrees with a fee increase. It is to see the potential financial impact of the fee on SSMU and students. She motions to call the question and vote by unanimous consent.

Councillor Porter seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote on Motion 15c.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 15c is unanimously approved.

VP External Affairs Gaither motions to suspend the rules to move the motion about the base fee next to get the support of the General Manager before she must leave.

Councillor Porter seconds.



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 rules are suspended and the motion is moved up.

d. Motion Regarding the Base Fee Increase Referendum Question (President) –

APPROVED

President Ashkir presents Motion 15.d. He states that this motion would increase the SSMU's base fee, which has not increased in 5 years. SSMU's services have expanded, and the increase will allow staff's salaries to match their market rates. Constant revenues from the base fee increase will allow SSMU to match the price of life, and allow the SSMUnion employees to have their salaries adjusted appropriately. They find that this fee increase has been a long time coming, and with their current operations, there is an urgent need to increase the fee. President Ashkir stands for questions.

Question:

Councillor Porter asks how many SSMU employees this fee increase would affect, and asks if the fee increase would affect all undergraduate students.

Answer:

President Ashkir answers that the fee increase would affect SSMU members, most undergraduate students. There is a table that shows how the fee will affect full- and part-time students from different faculties. About 150 employees will be affected.

Question:

Councillor Parish asks how SSMU's fee compares to that of other universities, as it is mentioned in the motion that their fee is lower.

Answer:

VP External Affairs Gaither answers that SSMU's fee is below average compared to other student unions', and they tend to provide more services than other schools. This is why their base fee should be a bit higher.

Question:

Councillor Whitcomb asks if Executives have considered giving students more info about why the fee is being raised, for example whose salaries will be impacted and by how much, because the fee increase is quite significant. She states that last year's VP Finance was clear that a fee increase was needed to resolve the deficit, but this motion states that the increase is going



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

towards the SSMUnion employees' salaries only. She asks if this base fee increase is going to fix SSMUnion salaries only, and if it is, if there is a long-term plan to solve the deficit.

Answer:

President Ashkir answers that the motion tackles the deficit and demands by the SSMUnion to increase their employees' salaries; it would allow them to pay employees fairly and it would cover salaries that are currently being paid by the operating budget. So, there would be more money in the operating budget that could fill empty positions and other initiatives, as well as balance the current budget.

VP External Affairs Gaither adds that this fee is for unionized staff, not Executives.

Question:

Councillor Porter states that the Appendix clarifies that the increase will go towards unionized employees' salaries, but it does not say by how much. He asks how it will free up money if the fees are just going to unionized employees' salaries, and asks if the salaries are being raised or just covered by this money.

Answer:

President Ashkir answers that they want to cover current salaries and salary increases, to match market wages and free up more money to match the deficit and continue providing services.

Question:

Councillor Porter asks if this would not just give SSMU more money in the operating budget, because the salaries will now be covered by the fee increase.

Answer:

President Ashkir answers yes; the motion will allow for a salary floor, which is part of the motion. All the money collected is going to the operating budget, but this money is dedicated to salaries. This provides job security to SSMU employees, and helps the budget as a whole by lightening the financial load.

Question:

Councillor Whitcomb asks if introducing a tiered fee increase was considered, because they are almost doubling the fee in one go. This would mean a less drastic change for students.

Answer:



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

President Ashkir answers that their current financial situation is not tenable whatsoever, so the motion is quite urgent. They need to continue providing services, which they will not be able to do with the current base fee. Because there hasn't been a fee increase in so long and because the economic situation has changed so much, and because SSMU has grown so much, they need a significant fee increase at once.

VP Student Life Dakdouki adds that the SSMUnion was pushing for a fee that covers all salaries, so it is not entirely SSMU's decision. Doing a small fee increase every year would not be sustainable in the amount of work it takes to pass a fee increase. They want to be very open with students and they can show that SSMU needs this money now, and they hopefully will not need to increase the fee for a few years.

Question:

Councillor Porter asks if it would be possible to amend the question to reflect where the money is going, so that students know how large the increase is. He asks if they could attach a budget to the question, because this is not currently reflected in the Appendix.

Answer:

VP External Affairs Gaither answers that there are four types of full- and part-time students, so putting all this information in the question is confusing. Students can click on Appendix A to figure out how much their fee would increase. They can include a budget; he asks if Councillor Porter would be amenable to passing the motion pending the addition of a budget to the referendum question.

Councillor Porter answers yes.

Question:

Councillor Rylo asks if they could create two budgets; one where the base fee is approved and one where it is not. This would allow students to see which services would be affected by the fee increase.

Answer:

President Ashkir answers that they can add budgets to the motion, but both budgets would be hypothetical so they might not be perfectly accurate. They can add the budgets and some commentary about each situation. He adds that they would still operate with a deficit, so one budget would contain a fee increase and no deficit, while the other has no fee increase and a deficit.



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

VP Student Life Dakdouki adds that the budgets would need to be very general if they will be provided, because they take a very long time to prepare. A budget without a deficit would require them to decide what services they would remove in the case of the fee increase being voted down, which they are not ready to do.

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

Councillor Whitcomb is concerned about the transparency about the phrasing of the question. It is said to go to salaries only, but based on discussion it also goes to reducing the deficit, which is not caused solely by salaries. She thinks students have the right to know the full scope of the fee. She notes that there is a lack of transparency, and wants to rephrase the question so that it is clearer.

President Ashkir understands the concerns, and clarifies that most of SSMU's expenses are salaries. This is why the motion was phrased as it is, because when they need to pick between cutting services or SSMU as a whole, they will let employees go. The goal of the motion is to protect unionized employees, and they collaborated on the writing of the motion.

Councillor Porter states that this fee would cost around \$900 for students in four (4) years. He is concerned that McGill's 24,000 undergraduate students do not have this extra money it takes for paying the salaries of 150 employees. He is open to solutions, but overall is concerned about the fee increase's effect on students.

VP External Affairs Gaither answers that they no longer have any option other than increasing the base fee in order to cover the salaries. The budget is already being squeezed as far as it can go without operations shrinking. He adds that everyone cares about the organization, and it is important to acknowledge that they will eventually need to ask for more money if they want to continue representing students.

Councillor Whitcomb calculated the numbers, as she deals with finances often as the VP Finance of SUS. Based on the 2021 enrollment numbers, the fee increase would add over \$900,000 to SSMU's budget every semester, which is a lot. Because there is no clear breakdown about the roles and salaries being increased, and because the question does not make it clear what other things the money is going to, she does not feel that the question is being asked in a successful way. There needs to be background information provided to students if they are going to feel comfortable asking them for this amount of 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

VP Student Life Dakdouki states that the amount is what the union has insisted on, so it is not necessarily negotiable. So, they understand the potential impacts on students, but they need to consider the company and union as well. She understands that \$900,000 is a lot of money, but their deficit right now is \$700,000, so the fee increase would not give them much more money. The increase would allow them to keep the operations they are running right now.

President Ashkir adds that the increase would not represent new hires, it would be a lifeline for SSMU. He would be open to discuss amendments, because this is why it was brought to the Council. The budget needs this fee increase, as SSMU does not have much left to cut before having to reduce its functioning.

Councillor Porter agrees, but he is concerned that such a large increase is unfeasible. If SSMU wants students to approve this, they should know how much they're voting on. The motion does not make it clear how much the fee will increase.

VP External Affairs Gaither asks Councillors to propose amendments if they want to make changes, as they are talking in circles.

The Speaker states that the Dais would look favourably on passing amendments.

Question:

Councillor Rylo asks if they are concerned about this passing at referendum, given that it is analogous to Quebec's tuition hikes.

Answer:

President Ashkir answers that this analogy does not work. Having money in their budget allows SSMU to fight these tuition hikes. The major difference is that SSMU is asking for students' consent; the hike is not being dictated onto them. He asks to take a short recess to discuss the amendments informally.

VP Student Life Dakdouki asks if Appendix A is a link or a table on the referendum question. Having it as a table would make it easier for students to see the information, because they would not have to click on another link.

The Speaker answers that it is a table on the document right now. On the referendum, it will probably be a link.



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

VP Student Life Dakdouki asks if it could be pasted as a table.

The Speaker answers that he can ask the Chief Electoral Officer about this during the recess.

Councillor Whitcomb states that she is almost done drafting her amendment. She asks if the increase is uniform across categories of students. If so, they could increase a percentage on the question to make it clearer.

VP External Affairs Gaither answers that it is proportional for all groups.

Councillor Whitcomb asks by what percentage the fee is increasing.

The Speaker calls for a five minute recess.

The meeting resumes at 22:13.

Councillor Whitcomb motions to amend Motion 15d to change its name to add precisions of what the fee increase is for.

Councillor Sakajiri seconds the motion to amend.

President Ashkir states that this amendment is friendly.

Councillor Whitcomb motions to amend Motion 15d to add a percentage increase to the referendum question, and a precision about what the base fee increase is for.

President Ashkir states that this amendment is friendly.

President Ashkir motions to call the question.

Councillor Whitcomb seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote on Motion 15d.

Councillor Whitcomb asks if they are voting on the amendments or the whole motion.

The Speaker answers that they are voting on the whole 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

Councillor Porter is opposed to Motion 15d, so the Speaker entertains a vote by placard.

Motion 15c passes.

- e. Motion Regarding the Referendum Question of the Increase of Radio CKUT's Fee (VP Student Life) – **APPROVED**

The Speaker thanks the CKUT members for staying this long.

General Manager Marcus-Sells leaves at 22:18. The Speaker thanks her for her attendance.

VP Student Life Dakdouki presents Motion 15.e, for a fee increase of one of SSMU's Independent Student Groups, Radio CKUT. She yields to the CKUT representative, Madeleine.

CKUT Member Madeleine presents Motion 15.e. They state that the question will propose a fee increase, which has not happened for 11 years. That increase was the first time the fee was increased since 1988, so they are sorely in need of a fee increase. CKUT is a campus radio station, and they have been broadcasting since 1987. They work with volunteers to power 24/7 programming: a mix of Canadian and other music, as well as news and culture from McGill and beyond.

Question:

Councillor Whitcomb asks to submit a budget from a previous fiscal year.

Answer:

Madeleine answers that they are happy to do this; they attached a few different budgets but can add some actuals.

Councillor Whitcomb indicates that they could approve the motion pending the addition of actuals.

VP Student Life Dakdouki answers that CKUT's current budget is their operating budget from last year, which shows a certain deficit. The fee increase would remove CKUT's deficit and the operating budget would remain the same.

Madeleine adds that they added the 2023-2024 projected budget but they can also add the 2022-2023 budget.



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

VP External Affairs Gaither asks if only the sections bolded will appear on the referendum, or if the entire question will. He was notified that they no longer use Whereas clauses on referendum questions, which is why the question is structured in this way.

Madeleine answers that this was dealt with in consultation with the Policy and Advocacy Coordinator and the Governance Manager; the Whereas clauses are actually legally required to be on the ballot by McGill. She adds that the Deputy Provost Student Life & Learning has the final say about the wording of the question.

VP Student Life Dakdouki clarifies the Whereas clause; they are usually removed as it makes it easier to read the question without them, but McGill prefers to have them. Because CKUT is an ISG that has an MOA with McGill, there are restrictions on their referendum questions. SSMU still allows the Whereas clauses.

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

President Ashkir motions to call the question by unanimous consent.

Councillor Sakajiri seconds this motion.

Councilor Whitcomb is opposed and proposes an amendment to include a budget from the previous fiscal year.

President Ashkir states that this is a friendly amendment.

The Speaker entertains a vote by unanimous consent on Motion 15e.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 15.e is approved pending the addition of the 2022-2023 budget. The Speaker thanks the CKUT members for staying so long.

f. Motion Regarding First Year Fee Question (VP Internal Affairs) – **APPROVED**

Councillor Porter, who seconded the motion, presents Motion 15e. This motion would renew the First-Year Council's fee and not increase it. He was a member of FYC last year, and they do a good job integrating first-years into life at McGill through events and advocacy work.

Question:



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

Councillor Whitcomb asks if numbers will look the same as the current budget, given that no projected budget is provided. She asks if the FYACs salaries are being paid, because the actuals show that it was not paid last year.

Answer:

Councillor Porter answers that there is no new business in the budget, the fee is simply being renewed. Students will not see a change in the costs for the First Year Fee.

Question:

Councillor Fournier asks where the surplus goes, as the Fee runs a surplus.

Answer:

Councillor Porter answers that the surplus is not always reabsorbed by the club, as was the case last year. No money is ever wasted.

VP Student Life Dakdouki answers that part of the surplus is carried over and sent to other funds for first-year oriented events. The surplus also carries over throughout the years.

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

President Ashkir motions to call the question by unanimous consent.

Councillor Whitcomb seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 15.f is approved.

- g. Motion Regarding the Creation of the Community Solidarity Fund, Fee, and Solidarity Funding Committee (VP External Affairs) – **APPROVED**

VP External Affairs Gaither presents Motion 15g. He states that this motion would allow External Affairs to access more democratically-sourced funding. There are many external groups that want to be funded and that are in line with their mandate, but External Affairs is often unable to fund them because they only get a bit of money from the SSMU budget. This motion would allow them to fund these projects and contribute to their mandates. He notes that there is no budget in the motion, but he would be amenable to approving the motion pending a budget. Most of the work focused on how they



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

can overcome traditional funding barriers at the SSMU while ensuring financial accountability. The fee would be \$1.00 per student per semester, and would have a new committee to go alongside it. VP External Affairs Gaither stands for questions.

Seeing no questions, the Speaker entertains a debate period.

Councillor Whitcomb motions to call the question by unanimous consent.

President Ashkir seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 15.g is approved.

- h. Motion Regarding Referendum Question of the Ratification of the Society's Board of Directors (President) – **APPROVED**

President Ashkir presents Motion 15.h. He states that the motion is a regular motion to ratify the Board members. The membership needs to be ratified by the Legislative Council every year. The Board is supposed to contain 4 Councillors, but only one has volunteered to sit on the Board. President Ashkir invites Councillors to make their interest known, and then they can pass an amendment to Motion 15h. It is essential for the Board to have full representation in order for it to have full accountability, as it is the highest governing body of the SSMU. It contains 12 Directors: 4 Executives, 4 Councillors, and 4 Members at Large. The current membership is detailed on the motion.

Question:

Councillor Pastrana asks how long Board meetings are.

Answer:

President Ashkir answers that they are around 30-60 minutes, which is quite short.

Question:

Councillor Sakajiri asks if the Board can still fulfil its mandate with its current low membership.

Answer:

President Ashkir answers that it operates in the legal sense, but he thinks it does not fulfil its mandate without full representation. A Board of under 12 people is incomplete, but it stands as the Board legally. The Board is mostly Executives, which is not adequate.

Seeing no further questions, the Speaker entertains a debate 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

Councillor Sakajiri seconds Motion 15.f.

VP External Affairs Gaither motions to call the question by unanimous consent.

Councillor Whitcomb seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Speaker entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 15.f is approved.

16. Adjournment: **22:40**

The Speaker declares the meeting adjourned at 22:40.

Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President 2023-2024