



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

November 30, 2023

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference and in the SSMU Boardroom on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 18:00.

Present: Jonathan Dong (Chair, non-voting), Sierra Fallis (Deputy Speaker, non-voting), Lisa Pennel (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Alexandre Ashkir (Director), Nadia Dakdouki (Director), Lalia Katchelewa (Director), Liam Gaither (Director), Jon Barlas (Officer, non-voting), Jacob Shannon (Council Member), Maya Marcus-Sells (General Manager, non-voting), Amina Kudrati-Plummer (Officer, non-voting), Fawaz Halloum (Director), Hassanatou Koulibaly (Officer, non-voting)

1. Call to Order: **18:08**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:08.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair presents the Land Acknowledgement.

The SSMU acknowledges that McGill University is situated on the traditional and unceded territory of the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee nations. The SSMU recognizes and respects these nations as the true and constant custodians of the lands and waters on which we meet today. Further, the SSMU commits to and respects the traditional laws and customs of these territories.

3. Attendance

The Chair takes attendance.

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

The Agenda is distributed.

Seeing no additions or opposition, the Agenda is adopted.

5. Minutes for Approval



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a. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2023-11-13 – **APPROVED**

Seeing no changes or corrections, the Minutes are approved.

6. Question Period:

The Speaker clarifies that participants will be able to hear Board members all around the Boardroom since a Board member has the Zoom meeting open.

a. Questions from Constituents:

- i. *What steps will the Board of Directors take to make sure that student democratic action is upheld and respected in regards to the referendum - and, how will you communicate to the student body your steadfast commitment to Palestinian rights?*

Director Dakdouki answers that she is speaking in her capacity as a Board member. The Board is fighting the injunction to uphold their democratic processes and move towards ratification. They are trying to be as transparent as possible, even if it does not seem that way. The Board will communicate final decisions, because small updates or unfinished decisions will only cause more confusion. Sending out messages very often also takes translation and writing efforts. She understands concerns about transparency, SSMU is bound by legality and confidentiality but tries their best to be transparent.

Director Ashkir arrives at 18:14.

Question:

Member John Vogel states that this Policy was written in response to a genocide that has cost 20,000 Palestinian lives. McGill students express their concerns and demands through this Policy. They ask how the Board will pursue the demands the policy entails, regardless of its ratification status.

Answer:

Director Gaither answers that the Board will consult with its lawyers to figure out what is possible. They received new counsel two days ago, so they are in the process of catching everything up.

Question:



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Member Alia Sanger states that SSMU went to court on November 21 [2023] to halt the ratification of this democratically-approved Policy. They ask which Board members have read the injunction, and ask how they will fight it. They ask how they have tasked lawyers with the defence of the *Policy Against Genocide in Palestine*.

Question:

Director Dakdouki answers that she has read the injunction. As Director Gaither, they have obtained new legal counsel, and they have not yet had time to finalize their strategy. They are waiting to see what their legal advice is.

The Speaker clarifies that they will not be allowing follow-up questions at this time to allow all members to speak.

Question:

Member Tara asks what the name of SSMU's legal representation is, and asks what the bidding process was like. They ask how the Board will ensure that legal representation is in line with students' beliefs.

Answer:

Director Gaither answers that their legal representation is with MMGC and Me Sibel Ataogul. They consulted many different firms, to figure out who would represent them in a case of this type. They chose a counsel who could support student associations, out of several options. They will be going with MMGC for the foreseeable future.

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7. [Executive Committee Public Report 2023-11-30](#) – **POSTPONED**
 8. Legislative Council Motion for Ratification:
 - a. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the Legislative Council Committee Allocations 2023-2024](#) (Director Ashkir) – **POSTPONED**
 9. Approved Referendum Questions for Ratification:
 - a. Creation of the Student Nutrition Accessibility Club Fee (Director Dakdouki) – **POSTPONED**
 - b. Safety Services Fee Increase (Director Dakdouki) – **POSTPONED**



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- c. Creation of the Community Solidarity Fund, Fee, and Solidarity Funding Committee (Director Gaither) – **POSTPONED**

10. Confidential Session: – **POSTPONED**

11. Adjournment: **18:24**

This meeting was adjourned early.

Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President 2023-2024

APPROVED