



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

December 14, 2023

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 18:00.

Present: Jonathan Dong (Chair, non-voting), Sierra Fallis (Deputy Chair, non-voting), Lisa Pennel (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Lalia Katchelewa (Director), Liam Gaither (Director), Jacob Shannon (Council Member), Amina Kudrati-Plummer (Officer, non-voting), Fawaz Halloum (Director),

Absent: Alexandre Ashkir (Director), Nadia Dakdouki (Director), Hassanatou Koulibaly (Officer, non-voting), Jon Barlas (Officer, non-voting), Maya Marcus-Sells (General Manager, non-voting)

1. Call to Order: **18:05**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:05.

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 changes or opposition, the Agenda is adopted.



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5. Executive Committee Public Report 2023-12-14 – **RATIFIED**

Director Gaither presents the Executive Committee Public Report in the absence of Director Ashkir. They hired many people for SACCOMMS, baristas and coat check attendants at Gerts, employees in the Finance Department, and a Francophone Affairs Commissioner. He stands for questions.

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

6. Minutes for Approval:

- a. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2023-11-16 – **APPROVED**
- b. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2023-11-23 – **APPROVED**
- c. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2023-11-27 – **APPROVED**
- d. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2023-12-04 – **APPROVED**

Seeing no changes or opposition, Minutes 6.a-d are approved as distributed.

7. Motions for Approval:

- a. [Motion Regarding Amendments to the 2023-2024 Board of Directors Standing Rules](#) (Director Katchelewa, seconded by Director Halloum) – **APPROVED**

Director Katchelewa yields her time to the Chair to present Motion 7.a.

The Chair presents Motion 7.a. He states that the Standing Rules have been improved, with changes due to recent incidents that are highlighted in yellow. There are changes to ensure better handling of meetings, and to prevent guests from joining in-person. All Board meetings from now on will have guests join online only.

Director Gaither understands the nature of these changes, but asks if the Dais wants to define 'particularly egregious,' as it could easily be misinterpreted. Although some events at the Board put members at risk, their goal is not to ban members from meetings. So, they should define better boundaries.

The Chair answers that a majority of the Board needs to agree with the Chair's decision in this case. The wording, however, gives the Chair some authority to take action when necessary.

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

Director Gaither asks to remove his second of Motion 7.a.



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Director Halloum seconds Motion 7.a.

Director Shannon motions to call the question.

Director Katchelewa seconds the motion to call the question.

Seeing no opposition, the Chair entertains a vote on Motion 7.a.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7.a is unanimously approved.

- b. [Motion Regarding Approval of a New Conflict of Interest Policy](#) (Director Katchelewa) –
APPROVED

Director Katchelewa asks for the accompanying slides to be presented.

Parliamentarian Pennel displays the slides.

Director Katchelewa presents Motion 7.b, and the updates mainly concern the Human Resources (HR) Department. The new disclosure system has more reporting points for staff to disclose conflicts of interest, including the Human Resources (HR) Director, Manager and Committee. Disclosure forms also now offer more instructions, and there is a new third-party disclosure form if a conflict of interest affects SSMU's functioning. They will take more steps to gather data about the conflict in question. Steps will be added to provide accommodations, and the HR Director will be able to provide interim accommodations, and the policies on investigation will be followed closely before removing individuals. The HR Director will meet with the person who disclosed the conflict of interest to discuss it, which allows the HR Director better context on the situation. Remedies to conflicts are now more in line with the investigation processes, and are more transparent to focus on the safety and well-being of all employees. Employees and supervisors will now be included in the implementation of the Policy. Major definitions of types of conflicts, breaches of policy and confidentiality, and the appeal process remain the same. There will be more follow-up from the HR Department on interim measures and accommodations. Director Katchelewa stands for questions.

Seeing no questions, the Chair entertains debate.

Director Katchelewa motions to call the question.

Director Gaither seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Chair entertains a vote.



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Seeing no opposition, Motion 7b is approved.

8. For Discussion

There are no discussion items.

9. Confidential Session

There is a confidential session this evening.

10. Adjournment: **19:44**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 19:44. He wishes everyone a nice holiday break.

Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President 2023-2024