



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

# SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

September 07, 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, September 07, 2023 at 18:00.

Present: Jonathan Dong (Chair, non-voting), Sierra Fallis (Deputy Chair, non-voting), Lisa Pennel (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Alexandre Ashkir (Director), Nadia Dakdouki (Director), Lalia Katchelewa (Director), Julia Nam (Council Member), Liam Gaither (Officer, non-voting), Hassanatou Koulibaly (Officer, non-voting), Jon Barlas (Officer, non-voting)

Absent: Coco Jie Wang (Council Member), Peter Tai (Council Member)

### 1. Call to Order: **18:12**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:12.

### 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 corrections, the agenda is adopted as distributed.

### 5. Executive Committee Public Report 2023-09-07 – **APPROVED**



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Director Ashkir asks if everyone can see the Report.

The Chair states that it is in the shared drive.

Director Ashkir presents the Executive Committee Public Report. He states that job descriptions were updated, hirings and budgets were approved, and a letter of support to the Mohawk Mothers was approved. The Executives approved a few budgets. They also approved the opening of Gerts for this academic year. Director Ashkir stands for questions.

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

#### 6. Minutes for Approval

- a. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2023-08-17 – **APPROVED**

The minutes are distributed.

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

#### 7. Motions for Approval

- a. Motion to nominate Officer Liam Gaither to the SSMU Board of Directors, effective immediately, to replace the vacant Director of the VP Finance role until a new VP Finance has been elected to office (Moved by Director Ashkir) – **APPROVED**

Director Ashkir presents Motion 7a, which is to replace the vacant seat on the Board with Officer Gaither. When a Director position is vacant, the seat must be filled for legal reasons. They need to have a certain number of Directors to not conflict with the Constitution. It was recommended by the Governance Manager to fill the position with an Executive. There was a vote within the Executives and Officer Gaither was chosen unanimously. Director Ashkir stands for questions.

Seeing no questions or debate, Director Ashkir motions to call the question.

Director Dakdouki seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7a is approved.

Officer Barlas arrives at 18:18.



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- b. Motion to transfer the supervision of the Grocery Program from the President to the Office of Sustainability and Operations, effective September 7th (Moved by Director Ashkir) – **POSTPONED INDEFINITELY**

Director Ashkir presents Motion 7b. He states that this motion allows for the transfer of the Grocery Program from the Presidential to the VP Operations portfolio. Since this was discussed, circumstances have changed and it might be better to keep this in the Presidential portfolio until Directors have more time on their hands. Director Ashkir stands for questions.

Officer Koulibaly suggests to postpone or table this motion until she and Director Ashkir have talked about it.

Director Ashkir is open to this, and suggests tabling it indefinitely. He can bring it back to the Board when they have clarified the situation.

Officer Koulibaly is open to this.

Director Ashkir motions to table Motion 7b indefinitely.

Director Dakdouki seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7.b is tabled indefinitely.

#### 8. For Discussion:

- a. Board consultation on By-Election motion (Director Ashkir)

[Motion Regarding a Special By-Election for the role of SSMU Vice-President \(Fina...](#)

Director Ashkir states that this motion will be presented to the Legislative Council next Monday. The motion calls for a special by-election to elect a new VP Finance, which is regulated by the Internal Regulations. They must go through the Legislative Council to vote for this. He wanted to consult with the Board beforehand to confirm that the dates work and that everyone is in agreement. Director Ashkir stands for questions.

Director Nam asks to have access to the document.

#### Question:

Director Dakdouki asks what regular requirements are being waived in this special election.

#### Answer:



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Director Ashkir states that usually, an election happens at the end of the semester. So, they need to waive this requirement to have the by-election, which is why a motion is needed for a by-election.

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#### **Question:**

Officer Koulibaly asks whether the new VP Finance's term would start right after the election, or at the beginning of the Winter semester.

#### **Answer:**

Director Ashkir states that they will start as soon as possible with 2 business weeks of training, and gradually gain the VP Finance's responsibility. He changes a typo in the motion. He asks Director Koulibaly if this answers her question.

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Officer Koulibaly states that it does not say when the training session will occur; she thinks it would be a good idea to clarify. It would be good for the new VP Finance to have 2 weeks of training in the term that they are elected in.

Director Ashkir states that they can change this to say that the term will begin right after the election's announcement with 2 weeks of training.

Director Dakdouki states that there is only one week between the VP Finance by-election and the Clubs & Services and First-Year Council elections. She is worried that they will have to convince students to vote in two different election periods. She asks if combining the two elections has been considered.

Director Ashkir states that he consulted the Elections SSMU and the Governance Manager about this, who do not think that it is a big concern. Students probably will not get confused with both elections, and campaigns can solve the issue of confusion as well as the concern of students only voting in one election and not the other.

Director Dakdouki recommends postponing the Clubs & Services election, because otherwise there would be some overlap between the election periods. They would only need to postpone it by a week. With the timeline as is, there is a two-day overlap between the VP Finance and the Clubs & Services election, which might lead to confusion among voters.

Director Ashkir states that he will speak with the CEO to postpone both the Clubs and First-Year Council elections. A week would be enough to separate both elections.



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Officer Koulibaly states that it is hard to hear Director Dakdouki.

The Chair notes this.

9. Confidential Session: **18:31**

The Board enters into a confidential session at 18:31.

10. Adjournment: **18:37**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 18:37.

The next meeting is September 21 at 18:00.

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Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President 2023-2024

APPROVED