



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 13, 2023

The Board of Directors special meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference and in the SSMU Boardroom on Monday, November 13, 2023 at 18:00.

Present: Jonathan Dong (Chair, non-voting), Sierra Fallis (Deputy Chair, non-voting), Nadia Dakdouki (Director), Liam Gaither (Director), Jacob Shannon (Council Member), Maya Marcus-Sells (General Manager, non-voting), Alexandre Ashkir (Director), Amina Kudrati-Plummer (Officer, non-voting)

Absent: Lisa Pennel (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Jon Barlas (Officer, non-voting), Lalia Katchelewa (Director), Peter Tai (Council Member), Hassanatou Koulibaly (Officer, non-voting), Julia Nam (Council Member)

1. Call to Order: **19:38**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 19:38.

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**

Seeing no changes or opposition, the Agenda is adopted.

5. Announcements:



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. Thank you to all directors whose terms are ending

The Chair thanks Directors whose terms are ending for their participation on the Board this past year.

6. Legislative Council Motion for Ratification:

- a. Motion on a Statement on Commitment to Empathy, Respect, and Anti-Doxxing on Campus – **RATIFIED**

Director Shannon presents Motion 6a. It received good attention at the Legislative Council from Councillors and Board members.

Seeing no questions, the Chair entertains debate.

Director Dakdouki asks if anyone anticipates any legal issues with this statement.

Director Ashkir answers that he does not anticipate any legal issues, but notes that it has not been reviewed by their lawyers.

Director Shannon motions to call the question.

Director Dakdouki seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 6a is ratified.

Director Shannon asks if the results of the vote will be displayed on the motion.

The Chair answers that it can be noted that it was unanimously approved.

Director Shannon asks if it was unanimously approved at the Legislative Council.

The Deputy Chair answers that it was not quite unanimous, but she has the results in the minutes.

Director Ashkir notes that it is hard to hear those in the room for those present on Zoom.

7. Motions for Approval:



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 to approve an interim [change](#) in the Elections and Referenda [timeline](#) for Fall 2023, to allow the campaign and voting period dates be changed to Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 9:00AM until Monday, November 20, 2023 at 11:00AM (instead of November 14 - 24) and to send the official motion to the Legislative Council for a formal vote on the timeline change by the SSMU Dais at the earliest convenience as per requested by McGill University (Director Ashkir) – **APPROVED**

Director Ashkir presents Motion 7a. McGill requested that SSMU change the referenda dates under a clause in the MoA, a clause which has not been called on in many years. It was called on short notice; they requested results on November 15. As today is November 13, it would have been impossible to respect that deadline. Director Ashkir was able to negotiate and provide them the results by November 20 at 12:00. If SSMU did not respect this decision by McGill, the fees approved by referendum would only be applied next fall, meaning that many services and clubs would miss their fee renewal for the winter. Seeing as the Legislative Council is the body that needs to approve changes to the electoral timeline, but any changes would require 48 hours' notice, this motion was developed. It allows the voting period to begin November 14 at 09:00, and ending at 11:00 on November 20. An official motion must be sent to the Legislative Council with an explanation of the consequences of denying this timeline change. Retroactively, the Council can approve this decision; this is a twist of their regulations but it is the only feasible option. There are three options: (1) this motion is approved by the Board and the Legislative Council, reducing the voting period to November 14-20; (2) this motion is not approved by the Board and is sent by email to the Legislative Council; if it is approved, the election starts at that point and lasts until November 20; if it is not approved, the election keeps its original timeline; (3) this motion is approved by the Board, but the Legislative Council refuses the timeline, so the original timeline remains and the fees are not applied until Fall 2024. Only the first option gives them a decent voting period and allows the fees to be implemented for Winter 2024. Director Ashkir stands for questions.

Question:

Director Shannon asks what the consequences of the unfavourable outcome is.

Answer:

Director Ashkir answers that, if the Board does not approve this motion, it will be sent to the Legislative Council in the form of an email motion. This will take 48 hours to be voted upon, which would delay and ultimately shorten the voting period. If the Board approves this motion but it is shot down by the Legislative Council, the election period would continue until its predetermined end date.



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

General Manager Marcus-Sells points out that the original end date is November 24.

Director Ashkir continues that in the case where the motion is shot down by the Council, the fees would only come into effect in Fall 2024, instead of Winter 2024. This would be damaging to SSMU clubs and services.

Question:

Director Shannon asks if this would affect only referendum questions that are meant to change fees.

Answer:

Director Ashkir answers that this would affect the entire referendum period, because there is no process to have separate referenda for fee renewals and non-fee renewals.

Seeing no further questions, the Chair entertains debate period.

General Manager Marcus-Sells thinks that they could pass this motion, as it would be beneficial to apply the fees in the Winter. The worst-case scenario is not the worst outcome, even if fees are applied later.

Director Ashkir clarifies that McGill needs time to test the effect of the fees, which is why they need the results sooner. They have their right to do so under the MoA, and they wanted the result of fee changes before November 15. However, they have not made this claim in many years.

Director Dakdouki states that the change would affect other questions, because it would be harder to reach the referendum quorum with a shorter voting period. She would be in favour of approving this motion, because services really need their fee increases for the Winter. She asks that Elections SSMU notify all services of this change, so as to not upset them. They should also be quite clear that McGill is forcing SSMU to change the referendum period, as she does not want it to look like SSMU is meddling in the referendum.

Director Ashkir states that he has given these two instructions to the CEO already, and the campaigns were notified of the changes on Friday or Saturday at the campaign meeting. The CEO has been instructed that any announcements related to this must make it clear that it is McGill forcing SSMU to change the dates. Director Ashkir suggests that they could make a press release to campus media to make this clear.



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

Director Dakdouki adds Action Item 7.a.i.1.

Director Dakdouki motions to call the question.

Director Shannon seconds this motion.

Seeing no opposition, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7a is approved.

- i. **ACTION ITEM:** For the Chair to send an email motion with a voting form to confirm the dates to the Legislative Council – **APPROVED**
- ii. **ACTION ITEM:** For Director Ashkir to contact Elections SSMU immediately following the decision on this motion – **APPROVED**
 1. **ACTION ITEM:** For Elections SSMU to immediately contact all parties involved in the referendum to notify them of the change

8. Confidential Session

There is a Confidential session this evening.

9. Adjournment: **21:06**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 21:06.

Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President 2023-2024