



## 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.*

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# SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

February 08, 2024

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, February 08, 2024 at 19:30.

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

Absent: Sierra Fallis (Deputy Speaker, non-voting)

### 1. Call to Order: **19:46**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 19:46.

### 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. Welcome to our new International Representative!

### 5. Adoption of the Agenda – **ADOPTED**



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The Agenda is distributed.

Seeing no changes or additions, the Agenda is adopted.

### 6. Executive Committee Public Report 2024-02-08 – **RATIFIED**

Director Katchelewa presents the Executive Committee Public Report. They met on January 23, and approved an email motion for the Winter Clubs Workshop. Other motions were approved including a hiring. Motions approved at the next meeting include one to buy the Nuroum for the Boardroom.

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

### 7. Minutes for Approval:

- a. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2024-01-23 – **APPROVED**

### 8. Email Ratifications:

- a. [Report of the Clubs Committee 2024-01-18](#) – **RATIFIED BY EMAIL 2024-02-05**

### 9. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification:

- a. [Motion Regarding Approval of the Student Nutrition Accessibility Club Funding Application 2024-01-24](#) – **RATIFIED**

Officer Kudrati-Plummer presents Motion 9.a, for SNAC's funding application, since their fee was not presented at referendum in the fall, due to an error with Elections SSMU. They requested \$18,000 of funding from a fund that is largely underused.

Seeing no questions, the Chair entertains debate.

Director Shannon motions to call the question.

Director Dakdouki seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9.a is ratified.

- b. [Motion Regarding the Referendum Question for a SSMU Membership Fee Increase for Salaries and General Operations](#) – **RATIFIED**



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- c. [Motion Regarding Queer Equity Support Fee Increase Referendum Question](#) – **RATIFIED**
- d. [Motion Regarding SSMU Walksafe Fee Increase via Referendum Question](#) – **RATIFIED**
- e. [Motion Regarding the Increase of the Referral Services Fee](#) – **RATIFIED**

Director Dakdouki motions to ratify the other Legislative Council motions by block.

Director Katchelewa seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motions 9.b-e are ratified.

### 10. Nominating Committee Reports:

- a. Report of the Nominating Committee (Redacted) 2024-01-23 – **RATIFIED**

Parliamentarian Pennel presents the Report of the Nominating Committee, which was supposed to be presented at the last meeting. The candidate being approved is for the Member at Large for the Nominating Committee. This report is the same as the confidential report presented at the last meeting.

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#### Question:

Representative Bejjani asks how the club approval procedure works.

#### Answer:

The Chair states that they are only entertaining questions about the Report at this time. He suggests adding a question period after the reports.

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Director Dakdouki states that the Board is nominating members to the Board of Directors, the Judicial Board, and the Nominating Committee. This Committee is not related to SSMU clubs.

Seeing no opposition, the Report of the Nominating Committee is ratified.

- b. Report of the Nominating Committee (Redacted) 2024-02-08 – **RATIFIED**



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Parliamentarian Pennel presents the Report of the Nominating Committee, which is recruiting members for the Board of Directors, the Judicial Board, and the Nominating Committee. The application period for the Board of Directors Members were extended, and they received 5 applications. 1 application was ineligible. The candidates were interviewed by the Parliamentarian and another committee member when possible. The nominations are non-binding, and the Board can approve or reject candidates. They are recommending 3 candidates to the Board. Candidate 1 had leadership experience, a finance background, and governance understanding. Their concern with this candidate was overqualification and their ability to work with a team. Candidate 2 has experience in advocacy, international development knowledge. They had a stellar interview and had great communication skills. This candidate does not have student government experience but the Committee deemed this a non-issue. Candidate 3 has experience with Parliament, and had a good interview. This candidate will diversify the Board of Directors. The Committee noted a high number of applications by law students, and considered confidentiality when appointing members of other student associations to the Board. Parliamentarian Pennel stands for questions.

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### **Question:**

Director Shannon asks if any candidates were motivated by any specific cause to join the Board, for example the Policy Against Genocide in Palestine.

### **Answer:**

Director Dakdouki answers that they did not get this impression as none of the candidates brought this up.

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General Manager Marcus-Sells thanks the Nominating Committee for their work, as the Board needs more members. She is very happy to see the Board fill up.

The Chair echoes these sentiments.

Seeing no opposition, the Report of the Nominating Committee is ratified.

The Chair asks if any Board members want to motion for a Question Period.

Director Dakdouki motions for a Question Period.

Director Katchelewa seconds this motion.



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Director Katchelewa asks to move to a confidential session at 20:10, as she has invited a member for a report.

Director Dakdouki suggests postponing the Question Period until after the presentation.

Representative Bejjani is amenable to this.

Director Shannon suggests having the Question Period at the end of the agenda as they have a lot of business. He motions to move into the confidential session for the presentation and then return to the public session.

Director Katchelewa seconds.

Seeing no opposition, the confidential session begins at 20:08.

### 11. Motions for Approval:

- a. Motion to nominate Candidate 1 (of the 2024-01-23 report) to the SSMU Nominating Committee as Member-at-Large, effectively immediately, until November 14, 2024, should they continue to meet the required qualifications – **APPROVED**
- b. Motion to nominate Candidate 1 (of the 2024-02-08 report) to the SSMU Board of Directors as Member-at-Large, effectively immediately, until November 14, 2024, should they continue to meet the required qualifications – **APPROVED**
- c. Motion to nominate Candidate 2 to the SSMU Board of Directors as Member-at-Large, effectively immediately, until November 14, 2024, should they continue to meet the required qualifications – **APPROVED**
- d. Motion to nominate Candidate 3 to the SSMU Board of Directors as Member-at-Large, effectively immediately, until November 14, 2024, should they continue to meet the required qualifications – **APPROVED**

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### Question:

Director Shannon asks if all the nominations will be ratified on the public and confidential agendas at the same time.

### Answer:

Parliamentarian Pennel answers that this is how SSMU does things.



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Director Ashkir adds that ratifications are done this way because names are kept confidential in the public session, and they are revealed in the confidential session. He motions for a 5-minute recess.

After the recess, the Chair entertains debate on Motions 11a-d.

Director Dakdouki motions to call the question and vote by unanimous consent.

Director Katchelewa seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motions 11.a-d are approved.

- e. Motion to approve an extension of the expiry date for the [current SSMU Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy](#) until April 11th 2024 – **APPROVED**

Director Ashkir states that he wants to amend the motion to reduce the extension as the Policy is almost complete. The GSVP is about to expire and must be renewed. The new policy is being developed and this extension will allow the new policy to be legally reviewed. This extension is required as the current Policy has already expired. He stands for questions.

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### **Question:**

Director Dakdouki asks if they can extend a policy after it has expired. She asks if this must go to the Legislative Council.

### **Answer:**

Director Ashkir answers that they can renew it now, since they continue to operate as it is in effect anyways. This is a policy of the Board, so it only needs to be approved by the Board.

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Director Katchelewa states that they cannot treat anything under this policy right now, since it has expired. There is a sense of urgency because they are receiving GSVP complaints. She looks favourably upon ratification of the policy.

Director Ashkir adds that if this is approved today, and the policy comes to the Board before April 11, the updated Policy will replace the extended one without any required action. He motions to call the question.



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Director Dakdouki seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 11e is approved.

12. Confidential Session: **20:08**

The Board of Directors enter into a Confidential session at 20:08.

13. Adjournment: **22:45**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 22:45.

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Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President 2023-2024

APPROVED