



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

March 14, 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, March 14, 2024 at 18:00.

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

Absent: Yvonne Bejjani (International Student Representative, non-voting)

1. Call to Order: **18:13**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:13.

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 AS MODIFIED**

The Agenda is distributed.



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Director Dakdouki suggests adding a 10-minute recess around 19:00 or 19:15.

The Chair states that he will call for a recess when there is space in the Agenda.

Director Ashkir asks to move up the confidential session to point 7.

Seeing no opposition, this modification is made.

Seeing no further changes or opposition, the Agenda is adopted.

5. Minutes for Approval:

- a. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2024-02-22 – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no changes or opposition, the Minutes are approved as distributed.

6. Executive Committee Public Report 2024-03-14 – **RATIFIED**

Director Bergeron arrives at 18:17.

Director Ashkir presents the Executive Committee Public Report. He states that it includes all activities as of February 29. They approved the budget for tomorrow's Food Security Summit and the signing of a letter in opposition to McGill's usage of tuition fees to oppose the Mohawk Mothers. Director Ashkir stands for questions.

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

7. Confidential Session

There is a Confidential Session this evening.

The public session resumes at 19:37.

8. Report of the Nominating Committee (Redacted) 2024-03-14 – **RATIFIED**

Parliamentarian Pennel presents the Nominating Committee Report, including the recommendation to nominate two candidates to the Judicial Board.



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9. Motions for Approval:

- a. Motion to nominate candidate 2 to the Judicial Board, effectively immediately, until November 14, 2024, should they continue to meet the required qualifications
- b. Motion to nominate candidate 3 to the Judicial Board, effectively immediately, until November 14, 2024, should they continue to meet the required qualifications

Director Dakdouki motions to call the question and vote as a block on Motions 9a and b.

Director Katchelewa seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motions 9.a-9.b are approved.

10. For Discussion:

- a. SSMU's history with and lack of union with other universities' student societies (Director Bergeron)

Director Bergeron states that SSMU is not affiliated with a Quebecois or Canadian organization of student unions. He wants to discuss why they are not in one of these groups, as there are advantages to doing so.

Director Dakdouki states that Director Gaither has the most information about this. Some student associations have had bad experiences with other organizations, and it can be hard to leave them, so this might be why SSMU is not part of any of them. They are part of UCRU, though.

The Chair notes that Director Gaither is present, but he is unsure if he is able to speak as he dialed in from his phone.

Director Bergeron states that he reached out to Directors Gaither and Ashkir to discuss this, as the Parliamentarian suggested that they would have the most information. Seeing as they might not be able to speak, the Board can discuss this later and Director Bergeron plans to meet with them individually.

Officer Kudrati-Plummer states that SSMU is an official member of UCRU, which includes 9 research-intensive universities across Canada including the University of British Columbia, University of Ottawa, McMaster University, Western University, University of Waterloo, University of Saskatchewan, University of Toronto, and Queen's University. She spoke with Director Gaither about other organizations of student associations and there have been disagreements about how the



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organization is structured in their advocacy, although this happened many years ago. They are now working with UCRU to champion SSMU's goals for the workings of the alliance.

Director Gaither states that he can meet with Director Bergeron to discuss the political matters at play here. There are many different complexities at play, which are not directly relevant to the Board but are more relevant to the Legislative Council. Student union federations have ebbed and flowed over the years.

Question:

Director Dakdouki asks if Director Bergeron wants to increase collaboration with other universities, because if this is the goal, there may be other ways to address this.

Answer:

Director Bergeron states that he met with the VP University Affairs from the University of Toronto, who is trying to join the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. He was curious why SSMU was not in the CASA, when U of T is also part of UCRU.

Seeing no further speakers, this discussion point is exhausted.

11. Confidential Session

There is a Confidential Session this evening.

12. Adjournment: **20:22**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 20:22.

Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President 2023-2024