



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 28, 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 28, 2024 at 18:00.

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

Absent: Jon Barlas (Officer, non-voting), Sierra Fallis (Deputy Speaker, non-voting), Yvonne Bejjani (International Student Representative, non-voting)

1. Call to Order: **18:06**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:06.

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.

L'ÉUM reconnaît que l'Université McGill est située sur le territoire traditionnel et non cédé des nations Anishinaabeg et Haudenosaunee. L'ÉUM reconnaît et respecte ces nations comme les véritables et constants gardiens des terres et des eaux sur lesquelles nous nous rencontrons aujourd'hui. En outre, l'ÉUM s'engage à respecter les lois et coutumes traditionnelles de ces territoires.

3. Attendance

The Chair takes attendance.



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4. Adoption of the Agenda – **ADOPTED**

The Agenda is distributed.

Seeing no changes or opposition, the Agenda is adopted.

5. Executive Committee Public Report 2024-03-28 – **RATIFIED**

Director Ashkir presents the Executive Committee Public Report. They approved many motions at their weekly meeting. He stands for questions.

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

6. Minutes for Approval:

a. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2024-03-14 – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no changes or opposition, the Minutes are approved.

7. Announcements:

a. Nomination Period for President and VP Finance (Dais)

The Chair states that there is a special election ongoing for VP Finance and President. The nomination window is open now, and potential candidates can meet with the current officers to discuss their candidacy.

b. Open Committees for Directors (Dais)

The Chair notes that there are several new Directors, who must sit on a committee. There are seats on the HR, Finance, GRC, Health & Dental, and SSAMOSA committees. If anyone is interested, they should contact the Dais so that they can be assigned to a committee.

8. Report of the Governance Reform Committee 2024-03-28

Director Ashkir presents the Report of the Governance Reform Committee, which was already given to the Legislative Council. This committee is mandated to reformulate many governance documents. Any motions that affect governance goes through the GRC, who can also initiate these motions. This year, they reviewed the Internal Regulations of Governance, which addresses gaps between the IRs and daily practices. They also reviewed the Accountability Plan and Motion, proposed at the Legislative



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Council at the last meeting. This plan reforms accountability at SSMU, and will be ratified by the Board if it passes at the Legislative Council. They did not manage to complete all major reforms, so the committee has some recommendations to guide the committee next year and ensure that progress is made on standardizing the governance documents. Director Ashkir stands for questions.

9. Motions for Approval:

- a. [Motion Regarding Approval of an Update of Amendments to the SSMU Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy 2024-03-28](#) (Director Ashkir) – **POSTPONED TO NEXT MEETING**

Director Ashkir presents Motion 9.a on behalf of the Equity & Policy Specialist. This document has been needing reform for a long time as its current version does not line up with current practices or needs of SSMU. Consultations were broad, and this update will allow the policy to better assist students in the field of gendered and sexual violence. He encourages everyone to review the policy. Changes were so exhaustive that the changes were not highlighted. Once everyone reads the document, they can discuss it. The Equity & Policy Specialist has also offered to come present the document.

Parliamentarian Pennel states that the version with the highlighted changes is in the Drive.

Director Dakdouki motions for a reading period or to postpone until the next meeting, as the document is very long.

The Chair states that either motion is acceptable; they can do as the Board pleases.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly asks why this is being presented at the Board rather than the Legislative Council.

Answer:

Director Ashkir answers that the GSVP is a Board policy.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly states that this Policy was introduced and adopted at the Council; she asks if all Board policies remain at the Board level when changes are made, even if they are introduced at the Council level.

Answer:



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Director Ashkir answers that because amendments are being made to a Board policy, it only needs to go through the Board. If a new policy was being introduced, it would need to go through the Council. If the Board wants to bring it to the Council, he is open to it.

Question:

Director Dakdouki motions to postpone this, but she asks how urgent this is.

Answer:

Director Ashkir answers that the urgency of this policy being approved has been mitigated since the old policy was renewed temporarily. Any case that comes up before this version is approved will use the old version, so it is quite important to approve the new version. He notes that the Board had previously approved a legal review of the Policy, which is not in the Drive. He sends this to the Parliamentarian.

General Manager Marcus-Sells states that she is amenable to postponing this to allow everyone to read the document and the legal review of the policy.

Director Dakdouki motions to this effect.

Director Bergeron seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9a is postponed until the next meeting.

10. Email Approvals:

- a. [Motion to approve an Interim Provision to the Internal Regulations of Student Groups and the Clubs Committee Terms of Reference to stop review and approval of Interim and Full status club applications until October 31st, 2024](#) 2024-03-21 (Director Dakdouki)
- b. [Motion to Ratify Legislative Council Motion Regarding Special SSMU Executive Elections Winter 2024](#) 2024-03-22 – **RATIFIED BY EMAIL**

The Chair states that Motions 10.a and 10.b were approved by email.

11. Approved Referendum Questions for Ratification:

- a. [Nomination of Auditor for 2024 Fiscal Year Referendum Question](#) – **RATIFIED**



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The Chair states that this question was passed at referendum, to nominate the 2024 auditor.

Officer Kudrati-Plummer states that this is a standard procedure, and they nominated the same auditor as they have in the past, who has been incorporated into BDO Canada.

Question:

Officer Koulibaly states that last year there were unprecedented costs for the audit, and she asks if those costs are expected again this year.

Answer:

Officer Kudrati-Plummer answers that they are not expecting the same costs, as they have bargained to lower the price to \$38,000 and remove the technology fee. She does not know why there were unprecedented costs last year, but they will ensure that they avoid them in the future. Last year, it cost around \$60,000, which is unreasonable.

Seeing no opposition, this referendum question is ratified.

12. For Discussion:

- a. MCSS-SSMU relations (Director Bergeron)

Director Bergeron states that he put a document in the Drive. He was speaking to some people and it was brought up that the relations between MCSS (Macdonald Campus Students' Society) and SSMU could be improved, as some students are not benefiting from all downtown services, even though they might attend both campuses. He added some context on the IRP and Club regulations for Mac students, and he wants to discuss this.

Director Dakdouki states that this has been brought up before. It would be good to re-establish relations with other faculties. MCSS reached out over the summer, but the VP Internal took the lead on that. The problem is that they cannot provide all their resources to MCSS members, but they can look into an MOA to allow MCSS students to be club executives downtown.

Officer Koulibaly states that this might be different from faculty relations because it is a students' society. They have an MOA with PGSS to allow their members to be Club executives, which they could do with MCSS. PGSS pays SSMU a sum because SSMU cannot provide all resources for free. An agreement can be negotiated. MCSS has not been intentionally left out, but students would not be happy if their resources were handed out to other students.



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Director Bergeron states that he spoke to a past VP Internal from MCSS, who had been working on MCSS-SSMU relations. They mentioned that they wanted MCSS to be included in the IRP, which is currently being updated. This is important as there are many joint efforts between the societies and faculties for Frosh and clubs. They are also seeking increased communications.

b. PAGIP Court Hearing (Director Dakdouki)

Director Dakdouki states that the *PAGIP [Policy Against Genocide in Palestine]* safeguard and injunction case was on Monday. They were in court all day. First they heard the confidentiality of X, and then they heard the injunction. The judge has not made any decisions, he said that he would send them something by 16:15. There was no decision made as the judge decided that he needed more time to decide on both aspects of the case. In the wording of the consent of the injunction, it said that the safeguard order would be in place until the case was '*entendu*.' It is unclear whether this means that the case should be heard or a decision being made. So, the safeguard will be in place until a decision is being made and they do not know when a decision will be made. Director Dakdouki will update everyone when she hears from the judge.

13. Confidential Session: **18:35**

The Board enters into a confidential session at 18:35.

14. Adjournment: **22:00**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 22:00.

Alexandre Ashkir, SSMU President 2023-2024