



## 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

October 8, 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 Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 18:00.

Present: Jonathan Dong (Chair, non-voting), Jessica Bakar (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Abe Berglas (Officer, non-voting), Zeena Zahidah (Officer, non-voting), Chloé Muñoz (Officer, non-voting), Hugo Solomon (Officer, non-voting), Meg Baltes (Officer, non-voting), Pauline Jolicoeur (Director), Dymetri Taylor (Director), Maya Marcus-Sells (General Manager, non-voting), Fawaz Halloum (Director), Jean-Sébastien Léger (Director), Elina Qureshi (Director), Eliot Bergeron (Director), Jacob Shannon (Council Member), Rishi Kalaga (Council Member), Seraphina Crema Black (Council Member), Yvonne Bejjani (International Student Representative, non-voting), Billy Kawasaki (Alumni Representative, non-voting)

Absent: Sierra Fallis (Deputy Speaker, non-voting), Emma Chen (Council Member), Tre Mansdoerfer (Alumni Representative, non-voting)

### 1. Call to Order: **18:04**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:04.

### 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'AEUM reconnaît que l'Université McGill est située sur le territoire traditionnel et non cédé des nations Anishinaabeg et Haudenosaunee. L'AEUM 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'AEUM s'engage à respecter les lois et coutumes traditionnelles de ces territoires.*



## 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

### 3. Attendance

The Chair takes attendance.

The Board members introduce themselves for the new Board members.

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

The Agenda is distributed.

Seeing no changes or opposition, the Agenda is adopted.

### 5. [Executive Committee Public Report 2024-10-08](#) – **RATIFIED**

Director Taylor presents the Executive Committee Public Report. On October 1, they adjusted some things in the HR department, made some payroll changes including to the Secretary General's hours, reviewed the VP Internal's staff, and began recruiting for Gerts bar and cafe roles. The cafe is close to opening, and interviews are going on this week. On October 8, they approved the hiring of a new Deputy Electoral Officer and Events Coordinator, to help deal with bookings. In the absence of a Governance Manager, they are introducing a Governance Advisor position to help out with some duties. They will be hiring a new Governance Manager in a few months, but it is a good idea to have someone in the interim. They increased the Photographer's hours, instead of having two photographers. They made some salary changes and did some more hirings. They approved the purchase of bottle openers for merchandise, and consulted with MMGC about the Act Respecting the Accreditation of Student Unions, to see whether McGill can refuse SSMU's representatives.

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

### 6. Legislative Council 2024-10-03 Approved Motions for Ratification

- a. [Motion Regarding the Transfer of Sustainability and Operations Portfolio Jurisdiction to the Vice President Sustainability & Operations](#) (President Taylor) - **RATIFIED**

Director Taylor states that there were some outliers in the VP Operations' roles, so this document proposes to rectify these outliers. This was approved by the Legislative Council.

Seeing no speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 6a is ratified.



## 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

- b. [Motion Regarding Community Solidarity Fund Increase Referendum Question](#) (VP Solomon) - **RATIFIED**

Officer Solomon states that he presented this motion to increase the Community Solidarity Fund to \$2.00 per semester. The whole fund was used last semester, and there was a lot of interest from community and student groups. They have received many requests. The Fund is a discretionary fund managed by a committee that provides funding to solidarity initiatives in various communities. They helped a coalition of Iranian students put on a memorial for Masha Amini, and they provided \$500 for food and promotional material. This fund was introduced last year by the VP External, and it makes sense to increase the fund and expand their ability to fulfil their community engagement mandate.

Seeing no speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 6b is ratified.

- c. [Motion Regarding the Legislative Council Nominations to the Board of Directors](#) (President Taylor) - **RATIFIED**

Director Taylor states that this will likely be the last round of nominations to the Board. Emma Chen, one of the Arts representatives, was nominated to the Board from now until November 14, 2024, and then from November 15, 2024 to November 14, 2025.

Seeing no speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 6c is ratified.

The Chair notes that with this new member, the Board now has 10 voting members and quorum will be 6 voting members.

- d. [Motion Regarding QPIRG-McGill Fee Increase Referendum Question](#) (VP Solomon) - **RATIFIED**

Officer Solomon states that he proposed this fee increase for QPIRG, which has not been increased since 2015 despite a 25% inflation increase. They have had to cut back the quality of their services and events because they do not have enough money. The increased revenue would allow them to hire more people to run events and to run more events, such as Culture Shock.

Seeing no speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 6d is ratified.



## 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

7. Minutes for Approval
  - a. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2024-09-24 – **POSTPONED**
8. Motions for Approval
  - a. Motion to Appoint Director Halloum as the representative of the Board to the Building and Operations Committee (BOMCOM) (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED**

Director Taylor states that they are looking for a Director to sit on BOMCOM, which is in charge of the building's operations. He asks if anyone is open to meet with the committee once or twice a month for an hour to discuss venue opportunities and other building affairs.

Officer Baltès states that BOMCOM is an especially important committee to have Board members sit on, because it deals with many third parties and building staff. They discuss short term and long term deals, and having a Director in these conversations is very important. It will help facilitate discussions and contracts in the future.

Director Halloum states that he would like to join the BOMCOM.

Director Taylor amends the motion to add Director Halloum.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 8a is approved.

9. For Discussion
  - a. Reflection on the General Assembly (Director Bergeron)

Concerns were raised about the decision to implement a strong security presence at the General Assembly, which appeared to create division among the Executive team. Some Executives expressed frustration, implying a lack of unity that could negatively impact perceptions among students. Miscommunication about the security's purpose led to an unexpectedly intense presence, which everyone agreed was excessive. Moving forward, the team expressed a desire to rely more on student volunteers rather than security personnel to foster a less securitized atmosphere at future assemblies. The level of security did not match the event's nature. The conversation then shifted towards creating clearer protocols to prevent such misunderstandings in the future. Disagreements emerged regarding the necessity of presenting a united front. The diversity of opinions among Executives is beneficial, but the environment during the General Assembly felt hostile, with disruptive behaviour making it difficult for students to express themselves freely. Concerns were raised about instances of laughter among Executives during sensitive moments, which left students feeling uncomfortable. Although some context was provided—that the laughter stemmed from confusion about comments regarding a recent tragedy—this did little to assuage the discomfort felt by students. The conversation emphasized the



## 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

importance of creating a safe space for dialogue and ensuring that Executives facilitate discussions respectfully. Legal implications surrounding the Assembly's conduct were discussed, and the need for careful consideration of language used during these discussions to avoid misunderstandings or potential legal issues was emphasized. However, there were differing views on whether the focus on legalities was appropriate, with some suggesting it fostered an atmosphere of paranoia. Ultimately, despite some negative moments, the General Assembly had a high turnout and provided an opportunity for students to engage with their government. The team recognized that improvements were needed in both the event setup and the manner in which discussions are conducted, aiming to enhance openness and respect in future gatherings. The discussion concluded with a reminder for members to treat each other with respect and avoid personal attacks.

10. Confidential Session: **19:23**

- a. There is a Confidential Session this evening.

11. Adjournment: **20:24**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 20:24.