



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

October 29, 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 29, 2024 at 18:00.

Present: Jonathan Dong (Chair, non-voting), Jessica Bakar (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Sierra Fallis (Deputy Speaker, non-voting), Abe Berglas (Director), 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), Jacob Shannon (Council Member), Seraphina Crema Black (Council Member), Billy Kawasaki (Alumni Representative, non-voting)

Absent: Eliot Bergeron (Director), Rishi Kalaga (Council Member), Emma Chen (Council Member), Yvonne Bejjani (International Student Representative, non-voting), Tre Mansdoerfer (Alumni Representative, non-voting)

1. Call to Order: **18:03**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:03.

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.



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3. Attendance

The Chair takes attendance.

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

The agenda is distributed.

Seeing no changes or corrections, the agenda is adopted.

5. [Executive Committee Public Report 2024-10-29](#) – **RATIFIED**

Director Taylor presents the Executive Committee Public Report. The Executive Committee met on October 15, 22, and 29. On October 22, they hired a Gerts Bar Manager, under the Student Life Operations portfolio, made some HR approvals including job description changes and interim changes to the VP Sustainability & Operations, VP University Affairs, President, and Receptionist portfolios, and approved budgets for the Great Gatsby Gala, the holiday dinner for staff, and a legal budget for MMGC to review SSMU's legal obligations around fund accounting. On October 29, they reviewed various HR approvals including hirings, promotions, and creating new job descriptions. They hired 2 MSERT aid instructors, and approved a budget for a legal opinion on bar permits.

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

6. [Nominating Committee Public Report 2024-10-29](#) - **RATIFIED**

Parliamentarian Bakar presents the Nominating Committee Public Report. She states that the committee is made up of herself, 3 directors, and 3 members at large. The committee hired for the Judicial Board and Board of Directors member positions. They received 3 applications for 4 seats on the Judicial Board, and all candidates were interviewed over Zoom. The committee recommends the nomination of candidates 1 and 2 to the Judicial Board. Candidate 1 showed strong interest in law through their studies, extracurricular activities, and leadership experience. They provided evidence of soft skills required for the position and experience at SSMU. Candidate 2 is a law student and had a strong interview where they demonstrated critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Candidate 3 was not nominated, as they lacked a general understanding about the basics of the position. The Nominating Committee was tasked to hire 6 members at large for the Board of Directors, 2 of which would be filled by Executives. They received 11 applications, and 5 were shortlisted and 2 were immediately disqualified. Two current board members showed interest in renewing their terms, and both were interviewed and candidates were required to submit a personal statement. The current Directors on the Nominating Committee were limited in their evaluation of the renewal of their colleagues. Candidates 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, and 13 were shortlisted, 5 new candidates and 2 existing



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members. The committee recommends the nomination of candidates 3, 6, 8, 12, and 13 to the Board of Directors member at large positions. Candidate 3 has extensive leadership experience in their faculty and SSMU knowledge. They also had an exceptional interview and demonstrated skills needed for the position. Candidate 4 had SSMU experience, but the committee was worried about their tendency to yield to a majority, so they were not recommended. Candidate 6 is an NUS executive and has previous relevant experience. This candidate would help diversify the faculties represented on the Board. Candidate 7 has relevant experience and strong skills, but the committee was concerned that this candidate is studying abroad and would not be able to attend the Board meetings in person. Candidate 8 is a MUSA executive and has relevant skills and an understanding of SSMU, and was recommended to the role despite their abbreviated interview. This candidate would bring a unique perspective to the Board as a music student. Candidate 12 is a Board of Directors member at large applying for term renewal. They articulated a plan for a second term in their statement and reflected on their first term. Although the interview was abbreviated, the candidate was recommended for renewal. The Nominating Committee did express concerns with this candidate's preparedness, accountability, communication, demeanour on the Board, and attendance. Candidate 13 is also a current member at large, and identified growth avenues for their second term and explained clear goals. The Committee noted the candidate's preparedness for meetings, quality of participation, and the value of their prior experience. Directors were rescued from the votes on renewing members, but both 12 and 13 were nominated for the Board. Applications for Judicial Board members at large are still open, and the second round of hiring for the Board of Directors will begin soon. Parliamentarian Bakar stands for questions, and notes that the Board retains the right to decide on the committee's recommendations.

Seeing no questions, the Chair entertains a vote.

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

7. Motions from 2024-10-24 Legislative Council

- a. [Motion Regarding Amendment to the Internal Regulations of Finance](#) (VP Jolicoeur) -

RATIFIED

Director Jolicoeur states that this motion amends the Internal Regulations of Finance because it mistakenly refers to the name of one fee as another.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7a is ratified.

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



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Director Taylor states that this motion proposes a SSMU base fee increase of \$14.86 for faculty group A and \$7.22 for part-time students in faculty group A. The proposed increase is \$10.92 for faculty group B and \$5.24 for part-time students in faculty group B, including students in professional degrees such as Dentistry, Medicine, and Law. This fee increase would cover operations and salary increases, as outlined with the Collective Agreement. SSMU is still in need of funding despite the layoffs that occurred in May. The referendum question was put on the ballot, which is currently open.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7b is ratified.

- c. [Motion Regarding the Establishment of a Constitution & Governance Working Group](#)
(President Taylor) - **RATIFIED**

Director Taylor states that this motion forms a working group to review the Constitution and Internal Regulations of Governance, as they are intertwined. They are not going to the Governance Reform Committee because it is the Legislative Council's prerogative to review the constitution, as it is meant to be very student-oriented. The working group would study issues apparent since 2016, when the Board of Directors was created due to issues related to membership. The Legislative Council acted as the Board of Directors in 2016, which caused issues because this is in violation of the Constitution. The Board was originally created with Executives as its only members, so the Legislative Council decided to change its membership, creating issues where a small group of individuals make most of SSMU's decisions. This motion would review these documents to make the Legislative Council the Board of Directors, resolving some communications issues at SSMU. Councillors, Directors, can join the committee, and members will be consulted.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 7c is ratified.

- d. [Motion concernant la création d'une cotisation de support aux affaires francophones](#)
(VP Solomon) - **RATIFIED**
- e. [Motion Regarding Renewal of Legal Essentials Fee](#) (VP Jolicoeur) - **RATIFIED**
- f. [Motion Regarding the Legislative Council Nomination to the Board of Directors](#)
President Taylor) - **RATIFIED**
- g. [Motion Regarding Creation of Gender Support Fee](#) (VP Jolicoeur) - **RATIFIED**
- h. [Motion Regarding Renewal of Equity Fund Fee](#) (VP Jolicoeur) - **RATIFIED**
- i. [Motion Regarding Renewal of Community Engagement Fund Fee](#) (VP Jolicoeur) - **RATIFIED**



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- j. [Motion Regarding Increase to Ambassador Fund Fee](#) (VP Jolicoeur) - **RATIFIED**
- k. [Motion Regarding the Referendum Question of Renewal of Radio CKUT's Fee](#) (VP Zahidah) - **RATIFIED**

Director Jolicoeur motions to discuss Motions 7d-k as a block as they are all opt-outable fees.

Director Taylor seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motions 7d-k are entertained as a block.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motions 7d-k are ratified.

- 8. Minutes for Approval
 - a. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2024-10-08 – **POSTPONED**

The Minutes are distributed.

Director Taylor motions to postpone the approval of the minutes pending a discussion in the confidential session.

Seeing no opposition, the approval of the minutes is postponed.

- 9. Motions for Approval
- 10. For Discussion
- 11. Confidential Session:
 - a. There is a Confidential Session this evening
- 12. Adjournment: **20:49**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 20:49.