



## 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

September 24, 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, September 24, 2024 at 18:00.

Present: Jonathan Dong (Chair, non-voting), Jessica Bakar (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Sierra Fallis (Deputy Speaker, non-voting), Zeena Zahidah (Officer, non-voting), Chloé Muñoz (Officer, non-voting), Hugo Solomon (Officer, non-voting), Pauline Jolicoeur (Director), Dymetri Taylor (Director), Maya Marcus-Sells (General Manager, non-voting), Fawaz Halloum (Director), Elina Qureshi (Director), Eliot Bergeron (Director), Jacob Shannon (Council Member), Billy Kawasaki (Alumni Representative, non-voting)

Absent: Abe Berglas (Officer, non-voting), Jean-Sébastien Léger (Director), Meg Baltes (Officer, non-voting), Rishi Kalaga (Council Member), Seraphina Crema Black (Council Member), Yvonne Bejjani (International Student Representative, non-voting), Tre Mansdoerfer (Alumni Rep 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.*



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### 3. Attendance

The Chair takes attendance.

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

The Agenda is distributed.

Seeing no changes or opposition, the Agenda is adopted.

### 5. [Executive Committee Public Report 2024-09-24](#) – **RATIFIED**

Director Taylor presents the Executive Committee Public Report. They met on September 17 and 24. On September 17, they approved the budget for sponsorship handbooks, published a statement about the AMPL strike, signed onto a letter, approved a few hirings, and allocated more funds to the Mental Health department.

Director Jolicoeur notes that the Motion to add additional funds to the Mental Health department changes the way it is budgeted, and does not collect more money.

General Manager Marcus-Sells states that she was absent on September 17 as she was on vacation.

The Chair states that this change will be made.

Director Taylor states that on September 24, they reviewed a bonus to the Student Life Operations Director, and approved job postings for Gerts jobs as they are very important. They will be boosted on Indeed. Two individuals were hired for SSACOMMS.

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

### 6. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification

#### a. [Motion Regarding Committee Improvement Plan](#) - **RATIFIED (5 in favour, 1 opposed)**

Director Taylor states that the Committee Improvement Plan focused on Legislative Council committees and consolidated them due to issues with conducting affairs. This policy was developed with the help from committee chairs, executives, and staff on these committees. Each committee is required to review their internal regulations each year, many of them faced issues with this task. The Policy & Advocacy Coordinator and the Secretary General worked on this and ran consultations. Appendix A is the plan itself, and Appendix B is the amendments to the Committee Terms of Reference.



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General Manager Marcus-Sells asks what changes this makes to the current operations and management. It says in the motion that Executives and staff will prioritize, but she asks what this entails.

Director Taylor answers that the General Manager is looking at the wrong motion.

Director Halloum is worried that this guide undermines debates at Board committees. He asks if this motion will diminish debate at the Board, which is already limited.

Director Taylor answers that the motion focuses on Legislative Council committees, not Board committees. Committees are mandated to meet and then report to the Council with their recommendations. The plan attempts to reconcile the lack of attendance on committees.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

With 5 in favour and 1 opposed, Motion 6a is ratified.

- b. [Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Standing Rules for the 2024-2025 Legislative Council and Fall 2024 General Assembly](#) - **RATIFIED**

Director Taylor states that this motion adopts the standing rules for the Legislative Council and General Assembly. Appendix A includes the changes made to the Council's rules, and Appendix B includes the General Assembly standing rules, which are the same as last year.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 6b is ratified.

- c. [Motion Approving the Fall 2024 Referendum Dates](#) - **RATIFIED**

Director Taylor states that this motion approves the fall referendum dates. Because of miscommunication of the winter referendum dates, their approval was postponed. The IRs can approve the winter dates until the last meeting of the fall semester. The fall nomination period will be from October 3-25, and the polling period will be from October 28-November 8, following the guidelines set by the MoA.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 6c is ratified.



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### d. [Motion regarding the Legislative Council Committee Allocations](#) - **RATIFIED**

Director Taylor states that this motion concerns the Legislative Council Committee Allocations, as councillors are required to sit on committees. Appendix A lists the nominations, and some seats are still vacant, such as the Francophone Committee, the Gender and Sexual Violence Committee, Steering Committee, and more. Some councillors still need to nominate themselves, so this motion will come back and more seats will be filled.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 6d is ratified.

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

Director Taylor states that the Legislative Council is required to nominate 4 directors to the Board. This year, there are two councillors who put themselves forward. One Arts Councillor and one Music Councillor will be taking the spots of Councillors 5 and 7, and will be starting their terms once this motion is ratified and will be ending their terms until November 14, 2025 with a renewal on November 15, 2024.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 6e is ratified.

The Chair notes that quorum will increase from 4 to 5.

### f. [Motion Regarding September 20 Call to Action](#) - **RATIFIED**

Director Taylor states that this motion was highly debated at the meeting, and it was about signing onto a call to action. The motion was amended, and the SSMU will ask the Communications Coordinator to share information about the counter-protest for anti-trans education and support the transgender community. Due to the late notice, the Executives released information on the SSMU's Instagram.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 6f is ratified.

## 7. Minutes for Approval



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- a. [SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2024-08-20](#) – **APPROVED**
- b. [SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2024-09-03](#) – **APPROVED**
- c. [SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2024-09-10](#) – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no changes or opposition, the Minutes are approved.

### 8. For Discussion

- a. Board Committees, Delegation of Responsibilities, and Future Decisions of the Board (Director Taylor)

Director Taylor states that the Board operates through committees that make recommendations. However, the Board often makes decisions as a group rather than through committees. They could prioritize committees, at which point the Board could meet once a month rather than twice. The Board would delegate tasks to committees, such as delegating financial approvals to the Finance Committees, who would make recommendations to the Board. BOMCOM can make decisions about the building, and can make recommendations to the Board for things outside their ability to approve. This way, the Board could talk more about things that require more attention. The motion below puts it up to the Governance Reform Committee to evaluate the Board's committees and see if the Board's efficiency can be improved. He asks the Board what they think would be best in terms of efficiency.

General Manager Marcus-Sells states that this is a great project. She thanks Director Taylor and Representative Mansdoerfer for their work on this. She thinks that the IRs of Finance will have to be edited to allow this motion to work. She has discussed this with the VP Finance, but it would be worth it to change the expense approval process. Having the Board approve purchases of more than \$10,000 for such a large organization as SSMU is onerous. BOMCOM could also approve their own purchases, which would take managerial decisions out of the Board's hands. She asks Director Taylor if there are plans to expand this item, and if there are next steps.

Director Taylor answers that the motion below will take concrete action. The mandate is for the Governance Reform Committee to review the Board's committees to determine how efficiency can be improved. Personal consultations will be done with Board members.

### 9. Motions for Approval

- a. [Motion Requiring the Board to Prioritize Functioning Board Committees](#) (Director Taylor) - **APPROVED**

Director Taylor presents Motion 9a, which initiates the process of reviewing the Board's efficiency. It was originally dedicated to Executives and staff, but the Board is now more involved. After some



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rewriting, it was expanded to include a mandate to review the Committee Terms of Reference and bring recommendations to the Board by November 12. This will include consultations with Board members and recommendations by the Governance Reform Committee. Changes could include the creation of a legal committee, and expansion of BOMCOM's and the Finance Committee's abilities. Other boards will be studied to see how their committees function.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9a is approved.

10. Confidential Session: **18:37**

- a. There is a Confidential Session this evening.

11. Adjournment: **19:16**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 19:16.

APPROVED