



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

February 4, 2025

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, February 4, 2025 at 18:00.

Present: Jonathan Dong (Chair, non-voting), Jessica Bakar (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Sierra Fallis (Deputy Speaker, non-voting), Abe Berglas (Officer, non-voting), Hugo Solomon (Officer, non-voting), Zeena Zahidah (Officer, non-voting), Pauline Jolicoeur (Director), Dymetri Taylor (Director), Maya Marcus-Sells (General Manager, non-voting), Hamza Abu Alkhair (Council Member), Dylan Seiler (Director), Fawaz Halloum (Director), Seraphina Crema Black (Council Member), Sophia Garofalo (Director), Rishi Kalaga (Council Member), Emma Chen (Council Member), Honoah Xu (Director), Simone Brown (Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, non-voting)

Absent:

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



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The Chair takes attendance.

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

The agenda is distributed.

Officer Solomon adds discussion point 10e.

Seeing no further additions or opposition, the agenda is adopted.

5. [Executive Committee Public Report 2025-02-04](#) (Director Taylor) – **RATIFIED**

Director Taylor states that the Executive Committee made the usual HR approvals and hirings for Gerts Bar and Cafe, which will be opening soon. There were two advertising budgets approved for the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary position and the part-time Porter. The Porters are overworked and do a lot of overtime, which means that some of their tasks do not get completed, hence the need for another Porter. On January 27, there was a publication for Muslim Awareness Week made, and a budget was approved for a Welcome Back dinner for the Legislative Council. On February 3, email motions about the new Gerts Bar Manager were reviewed. The new Bar Manager started last Thursday and has been working since; Thursday was a good time for her to get acquainted with the business of the bar. They also approved more hiring motions.

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

6. [Nominating Committee Redacted Report 2025-02-04](#) (Parliamentarian Bakar) – **RATIFIED**

Parliamentarian Bakar states that the Nominating Committee hired one Board of Director member and up to four Nominating Committee members. There was one candidate who was shortlisted for the Board member position, and was recommended for the role. The candidate has experience with SSMU's FYC and experience in law and politics, and displayed leadership, financial and logistical knowledge, as well as teamwork and communication skills. The Committee recommends the candidate for the Board until May 31. For Nominating Committee member positions, there were three candidates who were all shortlisted and who are being recommended to the positions. Candidate 1 has relevant experience and an extensive extracurricular record, including leadership, problem-solving, and teamwork skills. Candidate 2 has relevant experience as a head delegate in Model UN that will transfer well to the Nominating Committee; he is well-equipped to handle the responsibilities of the Nominating Committee. Candidate 3 is a first-year who is eager to get involved and has relevant student government experience; he demonstrated strong time management skills through various extracurricular activities and full-time studies. The Committee recommends all three



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candidates. The Nominating Committee is opening applications for the remaining vacant positions on the Board of Directors.

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

7. Minutes for Approval

- a. [SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2024-07-23](#) – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no opposition, the Minutes are approved.

- b. [SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2024-09-24](#) – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no opposition, the Minutes are approved.

- c. [SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2025-01-21](#) – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed.

Seeing no opposition, the Minutes are approved.

8. Approved Motions from 2025-01-30 Legislative Council

- a. [Motion Regarding a Fee Increase for DriveSafe Referendum Question](#) (Director Abu Alkhair) – **RATIFIED**

Director Abu Alkhair states that this fee increase for DriveSafe was passed at the Legislative Council, under the umbrella of the SSMU Safety Fee. DriveSafe is working on an app and moving to electric vehicles. They want to accommodate a variety of faculties and continue to drive students home for free, which requires a fee increase.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 8a is ratified.

- b. [Motion Regarding Eleves des Champs ISG Application and Fee Levy](#) (Officer Solomon) – **RATIFIED**



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Officer Solomon states that Élèves has been operating for 10 years out of the Macdonald campus, and they have grown and incorporated as a non-profit since. They are looking to become an ISG and levy a fee to support their activities. If the fee is passed, this group would help provide the Farmers' Market, SNAC, Midnight Kitchen, and the new food bank with free produce in the fall. They grow hundreds of pounds of produce and have provided more food to services than they needed. The food is grown by students on land given to them by McGill, and they provide volunteer opportunities for students who want to learn about sustainable agriculture. Their application was very well put together.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 8b is ratified.

- c. [Motion concernant la création d'une cotisation de soutien aux affaires francophones](#)
(Officer Solomon) – **RATIFIED**

Le directeur Solomon explique qu'il aimerait essayer encore une fois de proposer une cotisation pour les affaires francophones, qui est le seul comité qui n'a pas sa propre cotisation. La cotisation aidera les étudiants anglophones et francophiles à améliorer leur français, étant donné plus de demandes pour des services de langue française pour les membres de l'AÉUM. La cotisation aidera à soutenir des programmes tels que les Pipelettes, des programmes de mentorat et de jumelage entre étudiants francophones et ceux et celles inscrits dans des cours de français. They tried to propose a \$1.00 fee last semester, which did not pass, so they are proposing a \$0.50 fee instead and are aiming the fee at anglophone students looking to learn French, in addition to francophone groups who are looking for funding that SSMU cannot provide right now. It is awkward to make a request like this, as the government of Quebec is imposing mandates on universities to promote French and increase French literacy rates, but learning French can be a cultural tool as well. Officer Solomon is also working on a Francofête and an open letter to allow French-speaking students from countries other than France and Belgium to pay reduced tuition.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 8c is ratified.

9. Motions for Approval

- a. Motion to Appoint Director Halloum in the place of Director Abu Alkhair to the Accountability Committee until the end of Director Halloum's term (Director Halloum, seconded by Director Abu Alkhair) - **APPROVED**

Director Halloum states that the Equity Director asked him to fill in for Director Abu Alkhair on the Accountability Committee, since he was appointed to the Committee as a Board member, and now he



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is an Executive. The Accountability Commissioner perceived this to be a conflict of interest; all parties involved agreed to the change.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9a is approved.

- b. Motion to accept the Nominating Committee's nomination recommendation for Candidate 1 to the Board of Directors Member-at-Large role for a term beginning immediately until May 31, 2025 - **APPROVED**
- c. Motion to accept the Nominating Committee's nomination recommendation for Candidate 1 to the Nominating Committee Member-at-Large role for a one-year term beginning immediately - **APPROVED**
- d. Motion to accept the Nominating Committee's nomination recommendation for Candidate 2 to the Nominating Committee Member-at-Large role for a one-year term beginning immediately - **APPROVED**
- e. Motion to accept the Nominating Committee's nomination recommendation for Candidate 3 to the Nominating Committee Member-at-Large role for a one-year term beginning immediately - **APPROVED**

Director Taylor motions to entertain Motions 9b-e as a bloc.

Director Abu Alkhair seconds.

Seeing no opposition, the Chair entertains a vote by bloc.

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

- f. [Motion Regarding Approval of Faculty Olympics Budget](#) (Director Taylor) - **APPROVED**

Director Taylor yields his time to Officer Zahidah.

Officer Zahidah states that this motion seeks to approve the Faculty Olympics budget. It would be great to approve this tonight since they need to start signing contracts. The budget has a 10% contingency; they have estimated on most of the costs. They are waiting to hear back from the sponsorship acquisition department. She expects to break even, but the worst possible scenario is a \$5,000 deficit, which would be paid by the Interest Income Fund. It was reviewed by the General Manager and Directors Jolicoeur and Taylor.

Director Garofalo asks for a short break to look over the budget, as the Board was just given access.



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The Chair entertains a 5-minute recess to allow the Directors to look over the budget.

The meeting resumes at 18:30.

Director Garofalo asks if the ticket prices assume that the event will sell out.

Officer Zahidah answers yes, in the case that the event does not sell out, they have not heard back from the sponsorship acquisition team yet, but she is enthusiastic about it. If the tickets sell out, there will be no deficit.

Director Seiler asks if the event sold out in 2023.

Officer Zahidah is unsure, but she states that considering the deficit accrued that year, she thinks they sold less than the projected 750 tickets. She estimates that they sold around 680 tickets.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9f is approved.

- g. [Motion Regarding Approval of Referendum Question Amending Section 1.3 of SSMU Constitution \(President Taylor\)](#) - **APPROVED**

Director Taylor yields his time to Officer Solomon.

Officer Solomon states that this amendment would change a single line of Section 1.3 of the Constitution, and may seem like a strange change to make. He would like to make the Preamble only a mission statement rather than a section of the constitution that can be interpreted as a mandate. This amendment is necessary because the preamble has been the basis for procedural and legal claims against the Society in the past, by assuming that the Preamble is not an ideological ideal but rather a list of mandates. In the context of the Policy Against Genocide in Palestine and in previous discussions with the McGill administration, lawyers have cited violation of the SSMU Constitution, referring to the Preamble as an integral part of the constitution. The Preamble is an important mission statement that suggests the leadership that SSMU should seek to uphold, but it should not be used to manipulate SSMU into making political decisions or to pressure them contractually. There is a discussion item about the potential legal review of this Preamble later tonight, but he has seen that this line is most often used against SSMU in their legal cases, rather than a part of the actual Constitution. If people critique the SSMU for violating its constitution in the future, it should be because it violated an actual section of the constitution rather than an ideological tenet.



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Director Kalaga states that students will need to understand the context behind this change when they are voting on the referendum question, otherwise they will likely vote against it or abstain. There should be some context provided on why the change is being made.

Officer Solomon states that he had this concern as well, because the amendment will not make sense to those who are not deeply involved with SSMU. It may seem as though they are trying to change the constitution to avoid some responsibility, but the amendment will ensure that SSMU is held accountable to its actual abilities, and not held to an impossible standard. He asks Director Kalaga if a paragraph explaining the context before the referendum question would be desirable, or to provide a link to a motion in the question.

Director Kalaga answers that a paragraph would be preferable to an external link because students will likely not click on it. He thinks that legal review could be helpful to determine whether or not this amendment would result in substantive changes.

Officer Berglas agrees that it would be helpful to know whether this amendment will make a real change, because McGill sometimes cites the Equity Policy in addition to the constitution. The MOA negotiations will also impact how necessary this amendment is, as the default on the constitution may no longer be in effect once negotiations begin.

Officer Solomon states that the word 'integral' in the Preamble was emphasized a lot by lawyers in past cases, which is why he is seeking the legal review. They could also amend the Equity Policy.

Director Kalaga asks if they would receive the legal review back before the deadline to submit referendum questions.

Director Taylor answers that it is possible that MMGC gets back to them in time, depending on how extensive the review would be.

Officer Solomon thinks that the lawyers are probably already familiar with the context, which will expedite the legal review. He suggests calling their lawyers to ask how long the legal review would take.

Director Kalaga motions to postpone Motion 9f pending legal review, and asks that the legal team expedite the review.

Director Taylor notes that the nominating period ends on Friday, so he suggests passing the motion now and then getting a legal review.



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Officer Solomon states that they could postpone until the end of the meeting to allow him to write a short paragraph to introduce the referendum question.

Director Kalaga seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9g is postponed until the end of the meeting.

- h. Motion to mandate the HR Manager to provide to the faculties' equity commissioners the IRP list (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED**
- i. Motion to mandate the HR Manager to review current ongoing cases to determine their delay and have them addressed by March 14, 2025 (Director Garofalo) – **APPROVED**
- j. Motion to declassify the legal review on the Motion on Gender Neutral Washrooms (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED**
- k. [Motion on Gender Neutral Washrooms](#) (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED (8 in favour, 2 opposed)**
 - i. [Motion Regarding SSMU Building Gender Neutral Washrooms 2024-12-05 - Approved - Google Docs](#)
- l. Motion to create a plebiscite question regarding Motion 9j (Director Seiler) – **FAILED (2 in favour, 6 opposed, 1 abstention)**
- m. [Motion Regarding Approval of Referendum Question Amending Section 1.3 of SSMU Constitution , with the caveat that the GM sends this to legal review immediately](#) (President Taylor) - **APPROVED**

10. For Discussion

- a. The SSMU Anti-Violence Coordinators and the use of the IRP List (Director Garofalo)

Director Garofalo states that the IRP list is supposed to be shared with each faculty's Equity Commissioners, but it has not been. This means that faculties cannot cross check it when hiring or holding social events. They have tried to get it, but have not been successful.

Director Crema Black asks what the IRP is.

Director Garofalo answers that the Involvement Restriction Policy is a list of individuals that the IRP Committee and Equity Commissioners have deemed not suitable to attend campus social events, such as faculty bars and Gerts. It is supposed to be shared with faculty Equity Commissioners, and they are supposed to be allowed to add to it, but they do not have access to it. This means that people on the IRP list could be hired or attend social events by faculties, which can be disheartening for survivors who have gone through the IRP process. She asks for the IRP to be sent to faculty Equity Commissioners.



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Director Taylor motions to suspend the rules to add Motion 9h.

Director Garofalo seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9h is added to the agenda.

Director Kalaga asks why the IRP was not shared yet, as it is mandated to be shared.

Director Taylor answers that the HR department was reorganized this year, so this likely fell through the cracks. Because there is only one HR employee, they can only do so much, and they are quite busy with other large projects. The Board can mandate the HR Manager to send out the IRP, so that this will be prioritized.

Director Xu asked how the IRP is enforced by faculties.

Director Garofalo answers that faculties should run their hirings through the IRP, especially considering that faculties run many bars. They cannot screen everyone who walks into the bars, but it is a good start to run their employees through the IRP list.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9h is approved.

Director Garofalo states that IRP reports can be initiated by the Anti-Violence Coordinators on request. Since the AVCs have been understaffed these requests have been going to the Equity Commissioners. There have been people waiting on responses since September and have not heard back on their complaints. It is upsetting that this process is not being overseen; if SSMU does not have the capacity to do this, they should point victims towards other resources. There needs to be someone put in charge of this project. The by-laws state that 20 working days should be dedicated to each investigation; victims have been waiting up to five months for a response. She motions to suspend the rules to add Motion 9i.

General Manager Marcus-Sells states that the HR Manager supervises the AVCs, so she asks for this information to be forwarded to her as the HR Manager's supervisor. It is upsetting that this has not been dealt with, so she asks Director Garofalo to share the information that she has.

Director Xu seconds Motion 9i.

Directors Taylor and Jolicoeur make amendments to Motion 9i.



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Director Taylor suggests a March 14 deadline.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9i is added to the agenda.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9i is approved.

b. [Farmers' Market MoA](#) (Director Taylor)

Director Taylor states that the Memorandum of Agreement with the Farmers' Market will be up for renewal this spring. There were some minor changes made to make the MoA clearer. One change of note was to specify the source of payment: SSMU's payments to the Farmers' Market will be coming out of the Environment Fund, rather than the operating budget. They were previously sending \$6,000 every year in May, and the Farmers' Market wants to increase it by \$1,000 to allow for a better market. Director Taylor forwards a short email from the Farmers' Market to the Board with the justification for the increase.

Officer Solomon asks if the Sustainability Commissioners were consulted on this, given that they supervise the Environment Fund.

Director Taylor answers that they were not, because the MoA involves the SSMU and the Farmers' Market. It would make sense for the Sustainability Commissioners to be involved with the Farmers' Market.

Officer Solomon thinks it would be important to give the Sustainability Commissioners a heads up about this change, so that they can budget for it in their allocation of the Environment Fund.

Director Jolicoeur states that a quick consultation would be appropriate, given that they are not under time pressure to renew this MoA.

Officer Solomon agrees, because the Sustainability Commissioners are the only ones who manage the Environment Fund. He asks if Director Taylor would be amenable to postponing the ratification of the MoA pending consultation with the Sustainability Commissioners.

Director Taylor answers yes.

c. [Gender Neutral Washrooms](#) (Officer Berglas)

Officer Berglas states that the legal review of the gender neutral bathroom plan was received.



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Director Taylor motions to suspend the rules to propose Motion 9j.

Director Crema Black seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9j is added to the agenda.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9j is approved.

General Manager Marcus-Sells states that MMGC goes through many vague codes and regulations in the legal review, because the bathroom requirements are created based on occupancy. There is a proposed change that clarifies that the existing requirements do not require bathrooms to be separated by sex. The implementation of gender neutral bathrooms was found not to violate Quebec law or construction code, which does not mandate a certain number of gendered bathrooms. It is just a norm that bathrooms are discussed in terms of being sexually segregated. There are some requirements for gendered bathrooms, but the lawyers found that they only apply to very specific situations, such as outdoor restaurants. The lawyers conclude that the gender neutral bathrooms proposal is not in contravention of regulations and construction codes.

Officer Solomon states that these conclusions are not ambiguous, which should clear up concerns about the regulations.

Officer Berglas would like for a Director to motion to approve the gender neutral bathrooms motion.

Director Taylor motions to suspend the rules to add Motion 9k.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9k is added to the agenda.

Director Seiler states that the motion has not changed since he postponed it, despite undergoing legal review. There were various concerns brought up by different constituencies. He suggests a plebiscite question on the referendum to ask students whether they approve of this plan. If it is supported by students, which is likely, the Board should ratify the plan. He motions to suspend the rules to add Motion 9l.

Director Kalaga seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9l is added to the agenda.

Officer Berglas states that proposing a plebiscite question would delay the motion more than it already has been; it was written in the fall semester, and the Gender & Sexuality Commissioner wants to see this plan through during their term. It also elevates the idea that transgender people's access to



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washrooms is debatable, which is not true. If there are concerns with gender neutral bathrooms, this often comes from the desire not to share a washroom with a transgender person, which is not a reasonable argument. They are curious whether the concerns from constituents might be transphobic and should be shut down accordingly. The SSMU approved the Trans Advocacy Plan, which mandates them to undertake this project; this should have never been a debate. There is a toxic group of people at McGill who are worried about transgender women and men being in women's bathrooms, which is scary.

Officer Solomon states that this is not a new initiative, it is a step being taken following previous advocacy efforts. They now have a conclusion about the legality of this plan, so the fear of legal action is no longer relevant. This motion should not be debated; the time for debate and amendments was many weeks ago. If they delay this project any further, the people who delay the motion might be standing on the wrong side of progress. There is a lot to learn in working together on these issues, and embracing confusion when it arises. Concordia has only gender neutral bathrooms, which are very well designed and have floor-to-ceiling stalls. SSMU is not going to simply change a sign on the bathroom door. Directors had many opportunities to raise questions; anything other than a vote of approval at this point is a disservice, unless there are alternative ideas for implementation.

General Manager Marcus-Sells asks to see the legal review again. She states that the Quebec Charter of Human Rights & Freedoms prohibits discrimination based on gender identity or expression. If the bathroom regulations are interpreted as mandating sexual segregation and prohibiting gender neutral washrooms could violate the Charter. Thus, SSMU could be held liable in a human rights case by delaying this project more. The implementation of this motion through proper process could address all the issues brought up. She proposes that the bathrooms in the basement, where Gerts and the MSA prayer space is, remain gendered. This motion is very much in alignment with the Quebec legal code and Charter of Rights & Freedoms.

Officer Zahidah states that the Board first postponed the approval of this plan based on legal uncertainty; a valid concern in her opinion. Since then, work has been done, consultations have been completed, and the legal review was received. Some bathrooms in the University Centre are not even wheelchair accessible, so the plan should be to make universally accessible washrooms. This will help everyone and not harm anyone. Directors are put in a position of power to protect minorities, and to ensure that everyone has a safe place to use the bathroom on campus. The Building Director has offered to meet with the McGill facilities department as soon as possible, and Officer Zahidah and the Gender & Sexuality Commissioner are willing to work on this. Any further delay would cause more harm than good; they should not depend on a majority of students to vote to defend a minority.

Director Kalaga states that the motion limits the number of gendered bathrooms to one of each. It does not have a mechanism to make washrooms more accessible for those with physical disabilities and leaves many things up to the interpretation of the Building Manager. He supports Director Seiler's



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motion for a plebiscite, because the student population can vote on this, as it directly affects them. The referendum results are not binding as they come to the Board for the referendum. The plebiscite will provide them with important information on who supports this, even if it does delay the project. He has been attacked for not doing his due diligence on this project, so he wants to ensure that there are numbers to back up his opinion. If a majority of students supports this project, he is willing to support it. There are a minority of people who have voiced their support for this, and there is a minority that has voiced their opposition, but most students have not displayed their preference. Their main responsibility is to represent their constituents, which is what the plebiscite allows them to do.

Director Taylor states that he will be voting against this motion for a plebiscite. If the motion on gender neutral bathrooms is approved, they will need to work with McGill to make renovations to the University Centre. McGill would likely not keep only one set of gendered washrooms, because this would require extensive consultation. Director Taylor thinks that a plebiscite is a waste of time. He motions to call the question on Motion 9l.

Director Jolicoeur seconds.

With 2 in favour, 6 opposed, and 1 abstention, Motion 9l fails.

Director Crema Black states that it is important for people with physical disabilities to be able to use washrooms at SSMU. The meeting with the UGE demonstrated that the bathrooms in the University Centre are not sufficient to meet students' needs. She motions to amend the gender neutral washroom plan to call the new washrooms universally acceptable, including floor-to-ceiling stalls and gender neutrality.

Officer Solomon suggests that the legal review be quoted in the amendment.

Director Crema Black is amenable to this amendment. She states that gender neutral bathrooms are important, but it is most important for the bathrooms to be accessible to everyone. This includes people who feel uncomfortable with the stalls used and transgender people. She suggests changing the name of the motion to universally accessible washrooms rather than gender neutral.

Parliamentarian Bakar asks Director Crema Black to send the amendments via email.

Officer Berglas states that this is a friendly amendment.

Director Seiler states that this amendment would violate the Internal Regulations of Governance, and would need to be approved once again by the Legislative Council.



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Director Taylor states that the Board can override the Internal Regulations of Governance to go around this regulation. The Companies Act allows them to do so, as the Board has the highest authority.

Member Postovskiy encourages the Board to use the language 'universally acceptable gender neutral washroom' because while a universally accessible washroom does make the washrooms gender neutral as a side effect, gender neutrality should be a clear goal to protect transgender SSMU members. Using this language reassures transgender SSMU members that they are being thought of and not being written out of this motion, and makes it clear that part of the project is to make the bathrooms gender neutral.

Director Crema Black amends the motion to this effect.

The Chair entertains a recess due to technical issues.

The meeting resumes at 19:51.

Director Jolicoeur notes that she added an amendment to specify that the funds can come from the Space or Building Reserve Fund.

Director Taylor states that major alterations will be paid for by McGill. They have already been informed that these renovations are considered major alterations.

Director Jolicoeur removes her amendment.

Director Taylor states that all the suggested amendments are friendly.

Director Halloum states that the Concordia Student Union turned all washrooms into gender neutral washrooms. They received a \$15,000,000 donation from a provincial government department to finance these renovations. He suggests that the General Manager or Director Jolicoeur look into these subsidies, because the provincial government is keen to finance these initiatives.

Director Jolicoeur answers that she can look into it, if Director Halloum can send her the relevant information.

Director Taylor motions to call the question.

Director Jolicoeur seconds.

Director Kalaga asks if they have to approve the overriding of the Internal Regulations of Governance.



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The Chair answers that this is done implicitly.

The Chair entertains a vote on Motion 9k.

With 8 in favour and 2 opposed, Motion 9k is approved.

The Policy & Advocacy Coordinator cautions against overriding the IRs of Governance too often. It makes sense in this case, but the Board can be better prepared in the future to prevent overutilization of this power. It does not make sense for SSMU to utilize this clause based on how the Society claims to utilize student voices. She is happy to ensure that consultations are done properly in the future to reduce the usage of this clause.

d. Potential legal evaluation of the amendment to the Constitution (Officer Solomon)

Officer Solomon states that he received feedback from Board members, the General Manager, and the Policy & Advocacy Coordinator on the referendum question about the amendment of the Constitution. They wrote a short paragraph, and he asks everyone to take a look at it. He asks Motion 9m to be voted on with the caveat that it is sent for legal review by the General Manager, as she has expressed that she can do so.

Director Taylor motions to entertain Motion 9m now.

Director Abu Alkhair seconds.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9m is entertained.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 9m is approved.

e. Amendment to Section 11.2 of IRs of Governance (Officer Solomon)

Officer Solomon states that Section 11.2 of the Internal Regulations of Governance has been the basis for legal action against SSMU in the recent past. It might not be smart to modify the section now given the ongoing legal case relevant to this section. The way 11.2.2 is implemented in a way that allowed something to be brought from the floor during a meeting of the Legislative Council. There was no report by the Steering Committee to justify their decision to allow the motion in question to be brought with urgency, in accordance with Section 11.2.2. Officer Solomon wonders if there is a way to clarify that bringing motions from the floor happen quite often, and it is not always crucial for the Steering Committee to write a report on every single motion brought from the floor. Otherwise, the



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Steering Committee would be inundated with reports. Officer Solomon wants to clarify this section, because their legal team has spent a lot of time trying to make sense of this section to little avail. It appears that the Section requires a report from the Steering Committee, and makes it seem as though motions from the floor are brought only under exceptional circumstances, which is not the case.

Director Kalaga suggests bringing this up to the Legislative Council because it pertains to something that happened there. The Steering Committee should review motions brought from the floor, but a report is not always necessary, so they should remove the requirement for the report. There was no report presented by the Steering Committee about the motion brought from the floor.

The Chair notes that in the case of December 5, the Steering Committee made a verbal report on the matter.

Director Taylor suggests reviewing this later given the ongoing legal cases about this section. They can look into it and make amendments once the case is settled.

Director Crema Black understands the requirement for advance notice for motions, as it gives Councillors enough time to review them before meetings. They should not encourage things to be brought from the floor.

Officer Solomon agrees that the Legislative Council should be consulted on this, and agrees that this should be reviewed after the ongoing case is settled. Late motions should not be enabled, but sometimes there are issues brought up that have been looked at previously or that are urgent, so the Section should be expanded to make these situations clearer. The term 'urgent' is not defined in any of SSMU's governing documents, so it is relative. It is confusing when this section is used in an objective case.

11. Confidential Session:
 - a. There is a Confidential Session this evening.
12. Adjournment: **20:57**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 20:57.