



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

April 22, 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, April 22, 2025 at 18:00.

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

Absent: Emma Chen (Council Member), Seraphina Crema Black (Council Member).

1. Call to Order: **18:09**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:09.

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.

Director Seiler asks if he can add a motion to reimburse him for expenses he covered for 4 Floors on March 12, for food and drinks.

Officer Solomon states that the cheque request process should not happen at the Board, and the VP Finance can help him with it.

Director Jolicoeur states that she can help Director Seiler with this, as expenses under \$10,000 do not need to come to the Board.

Director Seiler states that he was citing the constitution, but he is okay to do it via the accounting form.

Director Jolicoeur states that he can get reimbursed through the accounting form. She asks if Board members have the accounting form.

Director Seiler answers no, because he was intending to approve his motion at the Board.

Seeing no changes or opposition, the agenda is adopted.

5. Executive Committee Public Report 2025-04-22 – **POSTPONED**

6. Minutes for Approval

a. [SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2025-04-08](#) – **APPROVED**

The minutes are distributed.

Seeing no changes or opposition, the minutes are approved.

7. Motions for Ratification

a. [Policy Against Genocide in Palestine](#) (Officer Solomon) – **RATIFIED**

Officer Solomon states that after over a year in delays, the Policy Against Genocide in Palestine, which received record-breaking participation and support, is up for ratification. This is an important opportunity to rectify the inaction of the SSMU on this issue and to uphold student representation, and comes after a ruling that undid the injunction that had kept the policy from being ratified and dismantled the arguments to get the injunction in the first place. The contents of the policy have been



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evaluated by lawyers for compliance with law, precedent, and SSMU policies. Many students who voted on the policy have since graduated, since the policy took so long to be ratified. The policy must be passed, because the genocide in Palestine continues, despite that some have tried to prevent its ratification and implementation. The McGill administration insists that legal decisions about Palestine do not apply to them, and that the Board of Governors decisions are beyond approach. Considering that students have mandated that SSMU ratify this policy through the recent strike and other measures, it is clear that it is time to remind the administration that students have pushed the university to be on the right side of history. The Board must ratify this policy, because the legal concerns have been addressed by Quebec courts and SSMU's internal and external legal counsel.

Director Kalaga asks Officer Solomon to send the ruling to the Board. He asks if this ratification has any impact on the MoA negotiations.

Officer Solomon sends the ruling to the Board, and answers that there are no implications for MoA negotiations.

Director Duncan motions to call the question, given that Officer Solomon is pressed for time.

Director Taylor seconds.

Seeing no opposition, the Chair entertains a vote.

With 7 in favour and 2 abstentions, Motion 7a is ratified.

Officer Solomon leaves the meeting.

8. Motions for Approval

- a. Motion for the Board to suspend the process now underway for the recruitment and appointment of an unelected VP Finance and that no candidate be appointed until three business days following the adjudication by the SSMU's Judicial Board of the petition filed by Dylan Seiler in which he appealed the Board's decision to appoint an unelected VP Finance for the 2025-2026 academic year (Director Seiler) – **POSTPONED**

Director Seiler states that he is motioning to suspend the hiring process for a non-elected VP Finance until after the petition is heard. He appealed the Board's decision to hire a VP Finance for 2025-2026. A Judicial Board appeal was filed on March 28, but they took too long to respond, and stated that they will not hear the petition until April 30, which is why he is presenting this motion.

Director Taylor asks why these concerns were not brought up during the election period.



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Director Seiler answers that because of the ongoing litigation against the SSMU, he has been advised not to speak on this matter. The injunction is available to Board members.

Director Duncan states that the email he was forwarded does not include the injunction. He asks if the injunction is available elsewhere.

Director Taylor shares the injunction with the Board.

Director Seiler states that a demand letter was served about a week ago, and the injunction was served yesterday.

Director Taylor asks Director Seiler if he would consider this motion a breach of his fiduciary duty as a Director of the Board.

Director Seiler states that he has presented his motion and his position already. He would like to share more information, but cannot at this time.

Director Halloum states that it would be difficult to vote on this motion without more information.

Director Seiler states that there is information available in the Judicial Board petition and the application for the Judicial Board petition. Otherwise, he cannot share more at this time.

Commissioner Dube demande pourquoi le directeur Seiler oppose la décision des étudiants de rendre la position du VP Finance non-élue.

Director Jolicoeur provides a translation of the question.

Director Seiler answers that there is more information available in the related documents. More information will become available.

Director Duncan asks if there is anything Director Seiler can share about the situation right now.

Director Seiler states that aside from the application, the petition, and concerns he raised with others, he cannot share anything.

Commissioner Dube demande comment les directeurs peuvent voter sur cette motion sans avoir plus d'informations. Elle ne fait pas partie du Conseil d'administration, alors elle n'a pas accès aux documents et elle est confuse.



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The Chair clarifies that recusal on matters is voluntary for Board members, when the discussion concerns them. Usually, when motions are presented in advance, the Dais can attach supporting documentation onto the agenda on the SSMU website. In this case, the motion was sent an hour before the meeting without supporting documents, the Dais was unable to share more documentation. Board members can share public information with members as they wish. He notes that applications to the Judicial Board are not public information.

Director Seiler adds Director Taylor stated in his affidavit that this issue could be brought to the Board. He was not present in court this afternoon, but the judge suggested that this issue be brought to the Board tonight, and that the Board be asked to halt the hiring process for the VP Finance. The defence said that they would not bring this motion to the Board, so the plaintiff has done so.

Officer Berglas states that it is problematic to have a motion at Board advance a Board member's personal interests.

Director Taylor states that there was a hearing earlier about this issue. The judge ordered the plaintiff to go through internal processes before coming back to the court. SSMU rebutted that they could not decide whether this would be brought to the Board at the time of the hearing, because it was not assembled, but they can decide so now since the Board is meeting.

Director Kalaga states that the application for a Judicial Board review provides more assurance in this situation. For SSMU to go to court again would set them back, as they are paying legal fees to go to court. If the Judicial Board makes a ruling, the Board can decide what actions to take. Plus, the Nominating Committee will likely not decide how to hire the VP Finance before the Judicial Board's decision. He supports the motion because it does not harm the Board, but understands the conflict of interest at play.

Officer Berglas states that the motion's approval could have ramifications in court later on. They think that the hiring process for VP Finance is urgent and on a short timeline. It is being introduced late already, and it would be a disaster for the SSMU not to have a VP Finance, if they were hired after the hiring process was suspended.

Director Duncan asks how long the Judicial Board decision will take, and if there will be a VP Finance in the interim period.

Director Seiler is unsure how long the Judicial Board will take to make its ruling.

Director Taylor answers that there is no timeline for the Judicial Board's judgements, as they have taken around a month to issue judgements this year. Director Jolicoeur is graduating in May, so they will not have a VP Finance after May if the hiring is postponed.



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Director Halloum states that the Judicial Board decision will take time, and if it is not satisfactory for the plaintiff, they will continue their litigation which will delay the hiring even more.

Director Seiler states that there was a candidate elected for the VP Finance position by students, so there would be a VP Finance if the hiring process is suspended.

Director Taylor states that there should be an internal discussion about the ramifications of this motion. He motions that this be postponed until a discussion about this has taken place in the confidential session, and asks Director Seiler to recuse himself for this discussion, to allow the Board to speak freely.

Director Kalaga seconds the motion to postpone.

Director Halloum asks why they cannot discuss this in the public session.

Director Taylor answers that the plaintiffs and the defendants are in the same room.

With 7 in favour and 3 opposed, Motion 8a is postponed.

- b. Motion to approve the creation of a Gerts Bar Administrative and Event Support Coordinator Position with 1000 contract hours (20 hours per week) with contract dates from June 16th, 2025 to May 31st, 2026. Hourly wage between \$18.60 and \$19.35 per hour pending job description finalization (pay score 25-28). Total cost: \$18,600 - 19,350. Department 1599 (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED**

Director Taylor states that this is coming to the Board because the total cost is above \$10,000, otherwise it would go to the Executive Committee. This motion creates a new position for Gerts, to help the Bar Manager with the bar's operations. They would focus on events and administrative support. This would allow for the Bar Manager to have a better work-life balance and to reduce her overtime work. The position will be paid around \$18-19 per hour for 1,000 contract hours. The job description is pending approval, which is why it is not included in the motion.

Officer Berglas asks if a written job description will be presented later at the Board or the Executive Committee.

Director Taylor answers that one will be presented at the Executive Committee, or it can be brought to the Board.

Director Jolicoeur suggests having the full job description before voting, given that the position does not start until June.



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Director Taylor answers that this is not possible.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 8b is approved.

9. For Discussion

- a. Preliminary Suggestions of the MoA Mediation and Negotiations Committee (Officer Berglas)

Officer Berglas states that the MoA committee has met twice, and discussed the confusion surrounding the notice of termination and the implications of termination. They therefore suggest that this be clarified to members. They noticed that there is a clause in the MoA that makes negotiations confidential, which prevents SSMU from releasing updates. The committee members have expressed interest in receiving updates and signing NDAs to allow this, and have also expressed interest in having the meetings recorded. The committee is concerned about SSMU losing political autonomy, such as the ability to submit motions to referendum or hold General Assemblies.

Director Taylor motions to suspend the rules to add Action Item 10a.

Officer Berglas states that they are happy to facilitate the committee members' NDAs, as they have dealt with NDAs in the past.

The Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Action Item 10a is approved.

10. Action Item

- a. Action item for Officer Berglas to speak with IC/CS to formulate a nondisclosure agreement for the members of the MOA Medication and Negotiations Committee –

APPROVED

11. Confidential Session: **18:44**

- a. There is a Confidential Session this evening.

The public session briefly resumes at 19:37.

Director Seiler asks Director Taylor whether all Board members have access to the application for the injunction and the Judicial Board petition that he made on March 28.

Director Kalaga answers that they do not have the Judicial Board petition.



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The Chair forwards the petition to the Board.

Director Seiler encourages the Board that all votes on this matter be in the public session, as the matter concerns all McGill students. He requests that the minutes are recorded and made available to students. He requests that his motion is voted on in its current form, and asks to be invited back once the confidential discussion is over.

The confidential session resumes at 19:39.

12. Motions for Approval

- a. Motion for the Board to suspend the process now underway for the recruitment and appointment of an unelected VP Finance and that no candidate be appointed until three business days following the adjudication by the SSMU's Judicial Board of the petition filed by Dylan Seiler in which he appealed the Board's decision to appoint an unelected VP Finance for the 2025-2026 academic year (Director Seiler) – **NOT APPROVED**

The public session resumes at 19:52.

Seeing none wishing to speak, the Chair entertains a vote.

With 1 in favour, 8 opposed, and 1 abstaining, Motion 12a fails.

Director Taylor motions to suspend the rules to add Motion 12b.

- b. Motion to approve the creation of a Gerts Sound Engineer and Events Promotion Coordinator position with 350 contract hours (10 hours per week) with contract dates from August 11th, 2025 - May 31st, 2026. Hourly wage between \$18.35 - \$19.10 per hour pending job description finalization (pay score 24-27). Total cost: \$6,423 - 6,685. Department 1599 (Director Taylor) - **APPROVED**

Director Taylor states that he will share the related documents in the Board chat. The sound engineer will help with events at Gerts next academic year. They have had one since January and they have been quite effective at their job and have proven to be a great help for events.

Director Jolicoeur asks if they have a sound engineer right now, and asks how many hours they work.

Director Taylor answers yes, and that as Gerts increased their events, the sound engineer started working more, so the estimated workload is 10 hours per week. They were being paid more, but the rate has decreased, given Gerts' revenue.



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Director Jolicoeur asks if they are replacing the current position with this one, or if they are creating a new or second sound engineer position.

Director Taylor answers that the current position is an independent contract agreement, so the position is being created.

Director Kalaga asks where the money is coming from for these hirings.

Director Taylor answers that Gerts is a department of SSMU and has access to the operating budget. Gerts has been doing very well so the expense is manageable.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, Motion 12b is approved.

13. Adjournment: **19:59**

The Chair thanks the Executives and Board members for their work this year. He thanks the Deputy Speaker for her work.

Director Kalaga applauds the Chair for his work this year.

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 19:59.