

SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

June 10, 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, June 10 at 18:00.

Present: Jonathan Dong (Chair, non-voting), Jessica Bakar (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Yasmin Beeai (Deputy Speaker, non-voting), Dymetri Taylor (Director), Zeena Zahida (Officer, non-voting), Susan Aloudat (Officer, non-voting), Rajan Duncan (Director), Dylan Seiler (Director), Fawaz Halloum (Director), Hamza Abu Alkhair (Council Member), Seraphina Crema Black (Council Member) Joshua Chin (Alumni Representative, non-voting), Maxime Rouhan (International Student Representative, non-voting), Maya Marcus-Sells (General Manager, non-voting), Simone Brown (Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, non-voting)

Absent: Rishi Kalaga (Council Member), Emma Chen (Council Member)

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

Conseil d'administration
Board of Directors

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3. Attendance

The Chair takes attendance.

4. Adoption of the Agenda – **FOR ADOPTION**

The Agenda is distributed. Seeing no changes, the Agenda is adopted.

5. Approved Email Motions

- a. Motion to Ratify the [2025-2026 SSMU Operating Budget](#) (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED 2025-05-24**
- b. Motion to approve the [Executive Contract](#) (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED 2025-05-24**
- c. Motion to approve the [Executive Manual](#) (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED 2025-05-24**
- d. Motion to approve of the First Year Council Election, Fall Referendum and Winter Referendum & Election dates as listed in the [Governance Meeting Dates 2025-2026](#) (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED 2025-05-24**
- e. Motion to approve the recurrent expenses from the library improvement fund of student staff and extended operating hours (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED 2025-05-24**

6. Minutes for Approval

- a. [SSMU Legislative Council Public Minutes 2025-04-03](#) – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed. Seeing no changes, the Minutes are approved as distributed.

- b. [SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2025-04-22](#) – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed. Seeing no changes, the Minutes are approved as distributed.

- c. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2025-05-06 – **POSTPONED**
- d. [SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2025-05-20](#) – **APPROVED**

The Minutes are distributed. Seeing no changes, the Minutes are approved as distributed.

7. Executive Committee Public Report 2025-06-10 – **POSTPONED**

8. Announcements

9. Motions for Approval

- a. Motion to remove Director Emma Chen from the Board of Directors, for delinquency of duties in accordance with section 6.8 of the Constitution (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED (3 in favour, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions)**

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The Chair states that following receipt of motion 9a from Director Taylor, on Wednesday, May 21st, 2025, he sent notice of the motion to Director Chen. In line with Section 6.8 of the Constitution, the Chair offered Director Chen the opportunity to either appear or send a written statement. Director Chen has not taken up either option.

Director Taylor explains that Director Chen has been absent for at least ten Board meetings. These absences have occurred on and off since her appointment. Director Taylor states it is important for the Board to meet quorum so it can function, which is difficult if Board members are continually absent without sending regrets.

Seeing no questions, the Chair entertains debate on motion 9a.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair calls for a vote.

Director Seiler asks the Chair how to raise his hand via Zoom.

The Chair explains how to raise one's hand via Zoom.

Director Duncan joins the meeting at 18:13.

Director Zahida asks for clarification on whether this motion will set a precedent of Directors being removed from the Board if they miss more than ten meetings. She asks if this will be a standard practice moving forward or if this is specific to Director Chen. She asks if difficulty meeting quorum has been a direct result of Director Chen's absences or Directors being absent during the summer at large.

The Chair answers that based on his 2 years of experience as Speaker, this is standard practice. When Directors fail to adhere to the Constitutional requirements, motions for removal can be brought.

Director Taylor clarifies that the motion has more to do with Director Chen's overall attendance since the start of her term.

Director Seiler asks if Director Chen responded to the email from the Chair.

The Chair answers that Director Chen has not sent any response.

Director Seiler asks if Director Duncan or any other Directors have given indication that Director Chen is aware of the motion for her removal.

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Director Crema Black suggests that the Board should obtain confirmation that Director Chen is aware of the motion for her removal. Director Crema Black offers to message Director Chen since Director Chen may not be checking her Director email.

Director Taylor explains that regularly checking Director emails is a part of her duties as a Director. Failure to do so constitutes delinquency of duties.

Manager Solomon adds that in his experience in the legal field, you can't consult someone who doesn't want to be consulted, and this was the standard set by the judge.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote on motion 9a.

With 3 in favour, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions, motion 9a passes.

Director Abu Alkhair raises a point of order. He notes that he believes not all voting members have cast a vote

The Chair states Director Abu Alkhair is correct. The Chair asks Director Halloum to cast his vote for motion 9a.

Director Halloum asks out of how many meetings Director Chen failed to attend.

The Chair states he does not know.

Director Halloum states he abstains.

With 3 in favour, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions, motion 9a passes.

The Chair states that the overall membership is reduced to 7 voting members. Quorum now is 4 Directors.

- b. [Motion Regarding Building Renovations for Room B-25](#) (Director Abu Alkhair) –

APPROVED

Director Abu Alkhair thanks Officer Aloudat for her work on this motion. He summarizes the motion, stating there is vacant space in the University Center that needs renovation. Room B25 will be renovated and given to TVM. The current TVM space will be given to MSA to account for their prayer space.

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Director Zahida asks if there is a timeline for the renovation. She also asks if TVM has been consulted.

Director Abu Alkhair answers that he and the Building Director consulted TVM in February. The result of that consultation is reflected in the motion. He states that MSA was also consulted.

Director Halloum thanks Director Abu Alkhair. He asks Director Abu Alkhair how the renovation will impact the FLAT Bike Collective in the basement.

Director Abu Alkhair clarifies that the FLAT Bike Collective will not be affected.

Seeing no further questions, the Chair entertains debate.

Seeing no speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, motion 9b is approved.

- c. Motion to appoint Pauline Jolicoeur as a Director to fulfil Sophia Garafalo's term from now until November 14th, 2025, in accordance with section 6.10 of the Constitution (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED (2 in favour, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions)**

Director Taylor explains now that Director Xu's, Director Garafalo's and now Director Chen's terms have ended, Section 6.10 of the Constitution states that the Board can replace those positions for the duration of the terms. For Directors Xu and Garafalo's seats, those would end on November 15th. Director Chen's seat would likely end September 1st. Pauline Jolicoeur has experience on the Board, is continuing as a student, and will be taking classes during the fall semester. The proposal is to have her fill the seat until November 2025 when the new Directors are chosen.

The Chair opens the floor to questions.

Director Seiler asks if Ms. Jolicoeur was recommended by the Nominating Committee for this position.

Director Taylor responds that per Section 6.10 of the Constitution, the Nominating Committee does not have any responsibility to fill vacant positions that emerge during the year.

Officer Aloudat asks for clarification on what the Nominating Committee is.

Director Taylor clarifies that it is a Committee of the Board of Directors that meets when selecting Board of Directors Members-at-Large as well as Judicial Board members.

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Director Seiler asks if Ms. Jolicoeur submitted an application for the position.

Director Taylor points to the process as laid out in the Constitution.

Director Halloum asks about section 6.10 of the Constitution, which states that the replacement must be from the Members, and asks if Ms. Jolicoeur will still be a student until November.

Director Taylor clarifies that Ms. Jolicoeur has another class to finish so she is not graduating yet.

Director Seiler asks if this appointment would mean Ms. Jolicoeur would be a Member-at-Large on the Board.

Director Taylor confirms that is the case.

Director Seiler asks if Ms. Jolicoeur will be doing any work related to, part of, or directly associated with the VP Finance portfolio.

Director Taylor confirms that she will not.

Director Zahidah asks for clarification on 6.10 and 6.4 of the Constitution as she has heard that Ms. Jolicoeur had graduated and was now working. She further asks about the requirement in 6.4 for the Nominating Committee to solicit Board Members through an application process.

Director Taylor reiterates that Ms. Jolicoeur has confirmed she has not graduated. Section 6.4 of the Constitution is not applicable as that is in reference to the regular term positions from November 15th to November 14th of the following year. This situation is covered by 6.10, which deals with positions that are vacant.

Manager Solomon corroborates that Director Jolicoeur is completing a summer internship that is full time but is going back to classes in the fall.

The Chair opens debate.

Director Seiler states that he has a question. He asks whether Ms. Jolicoeur will sit on the Executive Committee, hold an office, or receive remuneration.

Director Taylor answers no.

The Chair re-opens debate.

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Seeing no speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing opposition, the Chair proceeds to a full vote.

Director Taylor asks if he can proxy for Director Duncan.

The Chair states that the request would have to go through the formal processes outlined in the Standing Rules. The Chair further states that the Board has quorum.

Seeing 2 in favour, 0 opposed, and 3 abstaining, motion 9c is approved.

- d. Motion to approve the allocation of \$10,000 from the High-Interest Savings Account, for Gender-Affirming Care, to the QUIPS fee (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED**

Director Taylor states that following the cancellation of the Gender-Affirming Care contract, the Board initially allocated \$20,000 to the QUIPS fund for the purpose of funding gender-affirming care. Motion 9d is to provide an additional \$10,000 from the high yield savings account to do the same thing. He explains that further funds will likely be provided in September.

The Chair opens the floor to questions.

Seeing no speakers, the Chair opens debate.

Seeing no speakers, the Chair entertains a vote.

Seeing no opposition, the motion is approved.

The Chair announces that he is approving Director Duncan's request for a proxy for the remainder of the meeting.

Director Taylor asks Manager Solomon if discussion item 10a contains any confidential information.

Manager Solomon agrees item 10a would be best addressed in confidential session.

Director Taylor motions to suspend the rules to add motion 9e.

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- e. Motion to appoint Susan Aloudat as a Director to fulfil Emma Chen's term from now until September 1st, 2025, in accordance with section 6.10 of the Constitution (Director Taylor) – **APPROVED (5 in favour, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)**

Director Taylor states that this motion is similar to the motions that were approved for Director Abu Alkhair and Director Crema Black.

The Chair asks for a second for motion 9e.

Director Abu Alkhair seconds motion 9e.

Seeing no opposition, motion 9e is added to the Agenda.

The Chair entertains any questions on motion 9e.

Seeing none, the Chair opens debate.

Director Halloum inquires about the motivation behind the motion. He asks if Officer Aloudat could introduce herself.

Director Taylor asks Officer Aloudat to introduce herself to the board. The decision behind the motion is in reference to the section of the Constitution which states that up to four Executives can be Directors. Given the Board's fluctuating composition, it would be best to add another Executive to the Board to meet the four Executive maximum. In September, it will be decided which Executives will stay on the Board as Directors.

Officer Aloudat introduces herself as VP University Affairs. She completed her training during the month of May, and is now well-integrated into her role as an SSMU executive. She is a Canadian citizen. She opens the floor to questions about her.

Director Halloum thanks Officer Aloudat for her introduction. He thanks Director Taylor for bringing the motion.

The Chair opens the floor for debate.

Director Halloum asks for clarification on the term that Officer Aloudat will fill.

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Director Taylor states Director Chen's term should expire when the Legislative Council selects their new Board Members. Officer Aloudat 's seat would expire on September 1st so that Legislative Council can select their representatives for the Board and the Executives on the Board as well. An exact term end date is difficult to determine since that depends on when the Legislative Council selects its representatives to the Board.

Seeing no further speakers, the Chair entertains a vote on motion 9e.

Seeing opposition, a full vote is called.

Seeing 5 in favour, 0 opposed, and 1 abstaining, motion 9e passes.

10. For Discussion

a. CPI (Manager Solomon)

Manager Solomon states that it's important to ensure there's equity in CPI.

The Chair states that now the Board is at 9 Directors. Quorum is 5.

The Chair states that there will need to be a motion inviting Manager Solomon to the confidential session.

b. Confidential Session: **18:48**

i. There is a Confidential Session this evening

11. Adjournment: **20:05**

The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 20:05.