

SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

August 12, 2025

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Tuesday, August 12 at 18:00.

Present: Jonathan Dong (Chair, non-voting), Jessica Bakar (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Dymetri Taylor (Director), Susan Aloudat (Director), Dylan Seiler (Director), Joshua Chin (Alumni Representative, non-voting), Hugo-Victor Solomon (External Affairs Manager, non-voting), Simone Brown (Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, non-voting), Me Alison Glaser (Internal Counsel and Corporate Secretary, non-voting)

Late: Fawaz Halloum (Director)

Absent: Maxime Rouhan (International Student Representative, non-voting), Rishi Kalaga (Council Member), Rajan Duncan (Director), Yasmin Beeai (Deputy Speaker, non-voting), Pauline Jolicoeur (Director), Seraphina Crema Black (Council Member), Hamza Abu Alkhair (Council Member), Zeena Zahida (Officer, non-voting)

1. Call to Order: **18:17**
2. 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.

3. Attendance
4. Adoption of the Agenda – **ADOPTED IN CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

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The agenda is adopted in consultative forum.

5. Minutes for Approval
 - a. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2025-06-10 – **POSTPONED**
 - b. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2025-06-17 – **POSTPONED**
 - c. SSMU Board of Directors Public Minutes 2025-07-08 – **POSTPONED**
6. Announcements
7. Reports for Ratification
 - a. Executive Committee Public Report 2025-08-12 – **POSTPONED**
8. For Discussion
 - a. PAGIP committee (Manager Solomon)

Manager Solomon explains that this is following on the suggestion of Director Halloum who had asked about how the PAGIP would be implemented, and to follow through on the mandates given by the students. This policy originated from the largest turnout in elections history. The proposed committee would be a committee of External Affairs, so no need for Board permission. He asks for questions to be directed to him and then to Director Crema-Black once she assumes office.

Me Glaser asks for clarification on whether the committee exists or if the Board is to create it.

Manager Solomon explains that this is a committee of External Affairs, it does not report to the Board, this is a heads up just because the request for the committee was originally suggested at Board.

The Policy and Advocacy Coordinator clarifies that this isn't a Committee of the Board, but Board members are welcome to be on the committee.

Me Glaser posits that there will likely be a lot of action on campus with regards to the genocide in Palestine, and requests that the committee check in with her on public-facing actions to be sure we are fulfilling legal obligations and not affecting ongoing negotiations.

Manager Solomon agrees and points out that the committee's mandate includes language stating that activities are to be in line with the PAGIP's commitments and the SSMU's legal, governance-related, and organizational limitations. He asks for suggestions of additional language to be included, if necessary.

Me Glaser confirms she will discuss any issues, if they come up, with the VP External.

9. Motions for Approval

The Speakers notes that these will need to be email motions due to lack of quorum, but that they can be presented.

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Me Glaser gives a small overview of the project for revamping the Internal Regulations. The IRs have issues as they're been updated haphazardly, so language is not necessarily consistent, and can lead to situations where rules are unclear. The Governance team, spearheaded by the Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, has proceeded with the idea that the Constitution is the foundation, and the IRs are the scaffolding around the activities of the Society. Then you have policies, plans, protocols, and standing rules, which flesh out nitty gritty detail on how things work. Lots has been removed, but the knowledge, rules, and actions are not gone, they have just been put in more relevant spaces because they are more concrete information on how things should work. She is grateful to the Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, who has done an amazing job, and to the Governance team, who have done great work.

The Speaker notes he is pleased the Consultation Policy was followed.

Me Glaser leaves the meeting.

a. [Motion Regarding IRs of Governance](#) (Director Taylor) – **FOR APPROVAL**

Director Taylor notes that the new IRs of Governance have been reduced to 25 pages from 68. A lot of the introductory information has been removed, the order of precedence removed the IRs of Sustainability of Operations. Definitions are generally the same other than the new definition of disallowance, which is similar to Canadian parliamentary procedure. A lot has been removed and reorganized in the Administration section. Society's business clarifies Legislative Council and Board rules. Other changes include removing the Governance Manager and replacing with the Internal Counsel and Corporate Secretary. Orientation is further explained.

The Judicial Board section is now just 5 points, definition and jurisdiction, and then refers to Judicial Board protocols. Crucially, Judicial Board authority has been recalibrated to account for its lackluster use, so now the Judicial Board can refer complaints, act as an appeal body, or hear first instance cases when no one else has jurisdiction.

First Year Council now explains what the positions are and defines the roles, as well as clarifying the composition of the First Year Undergraduate Network.

The Legislative Council section was lacking in descriptions, allowing the LC to become a bit redundant following the institution of the Board of Directors. Big changes include the introduction of the Disallowance process. Now the Board has 5 business days to decide to disallow something the Legislative Council passes rather than affirmatively ratifying everything. So anything LC passes is in effect unless disallowed. Disallowance should be used in prescribed circumstances, such as if LC

passes something they were not allowed to do, affects finances, etc. Councillor positions and roles are all defined.

Manager Solomon asked if the total number of councilors will change with these revisions.

Director Taylor explains they cannot since they are defined in the Constitution.

Manager Solomon asks about the rule where the number of councilors are per 2000 students in a faculty and if that can be changed. Director Taylor clarifies this is also in the Constitution.

Director Aloudat asks why in the First Year Council section it says students can be in U0 or U1 and removes the section saying “in their first year.”

Director Taylor says that it specifies all students in their first year at McGill may stand for first year Council in a different part.

Director Taylor goes back to explaining the changes to the Legislative Council section, mentioning that Councillors may be suspended by the Secretariat for failing to attend meetings and will have to re-apply and give reasons.

The Board of Directors section mostly removed things that are already in the Constitution or Standing Rules. The biggest change was explaining the disallowance process. Generally the Board is functioning well.

For General Assemblies, the biggest change is that the responsibility for calling and going over motions was clarified as being made by the Steering Committee and not to the Speaker. For Strike General Assemblies, a change is to add a strike committee with members from the Governance department, building department, and the petitioners of the strike, to make sure that things function well and are not just left to the strike organizers or the SSMU to handle everything.

Officer Solomon mentions that quorum and faculty numbers have increased. Director Taylor clarifies that quorum is the same but the number of signatures has increased, both for putting motions on the agenda as well as for strike general assemblies. The initial IRs of Governance required 50 people to say they wanted a GA in the first place. But then no one actually would show up to the GA itself, which was a waste of time and resources. When it comes to putting something on the agenda (which originally needed 100 people), after consulting Me Glaser and others, it was felt that more people needed means more chance people will show up and it will be more representative. This way 2% of the student body has to want the motion.

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Officer Solomon asked about updates to the IRs of Elections and Referenda. Director Taylor mentions this is the next one up for revision. Manager Solomon states that people wanting to have more General Assemblies and Strike General Assemblies will not interpret the spirit of the change for what it is, i.e. being more representative and more comparable to other universities, and it may be perceived negatively. We should be sure to have a message ready, and think carefully about how it is translated to student-generated referendum questions.

Director Taylor continues, explaining the addition of Protocols to the IRs, which are more for the business of the SSMU. Some more clarifications also are for when an executive office is vacant, how regulations can be amended, interim provisions, etc.

The Speaker states this motion will be transmitted as an email motion.

b. [Motion Regarding IRs of R&A](#) (Director Aloudat) – **FOR APPROVAL**

Director Aloudat explains some of the changes clarify seats for Senate and Senate Caucus, some clarification on organization, specifying which committees are to be attended by the VP University Affairs, vs. Senators, some changes to UA staff organization. Mostly the changes were to align the regulations with updates within the Society, since some things were too vague and some out of date.

c. [Motion Regarding IRs Student Groups](#) (Director Abu Alkhair) – **FOR APPROVAL**

Director Taylor presents the changes. First, parts that are already in the IRs of Governance or the IRs of Finance are removed. An important change is that sanctions have been better defined, e.g. what actions lead to what kinds of sanctions.

d. [Motion Regarding IRs S&O](#) (Director Taylor) – **FOR APPROVAL**

Director Taylor states that this motion is to remove this IR since we no longer have a VP S&O. On review, a lot of the information here can be put into policies or protocols. Particularly full time staff said this policy doesn't really help with our operations.

e. [Motion to approve the signing of a 36-month contract with Bounce from the Student Support Fee, for a total of \\$122,040, from September 1st, 2025, to September 1st, 2027, pending legal review by Internal Counsel and IT review by John Campbell](#) (Director Abu Alkhair) – **FOR APPROVAL**

Director Taylor reminds the Board about the presentation from Bounce previously. The contract is for 2 years (2025-2027). It comes out to \$122,040, which includes many discounts. This will establish a platform that SSMU and clubs and services and ISGs can use to get a better word out on activities, so students can see a calendar, it allows for ticket purchases, can get demographics of who is attending what events, more streamlined. Money is coming from the students services budget, same like grammerly and antidote, which has a surplus for next three years. Because of how the fee is

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determined, it can only be spent on certain things and we don't want to be gathering money without use, so it should be spent on something of use to students.

f. [Motion to approve the updated terms of reference for the Nominating Committee](#)
(Director Taylor) – **FOR APPROVAL**

Director Taylor explains the members of the Nominating Committee suggested changes, including small updates to the membership and the Vice-President Finance candidacy was added. The Conflict of interest section was expanded upon to include involvement in clubs, services, associations, etc.

The Speaker states that this is the last Board meeting for him and the Parliamentarian, and wishes everyone a great summer.

10. Confidential Session:
 - a. There is no Confidential Session this evening
11. Adjournment: **19:12**