

SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

June 16, 2026

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) was held by teleconference and in the SSMU Boardroom on Tuesday, June 16 at 18:00.

Present: Hamza Abu Alkhair (Director), Keith Babayon (Director), , Meghan Lai (Director), Harry Wang (Director), Jason Wang (Director), Acadia Knickerbocker (Officer, non-voting), Maggie Tang (Officer, non-voting), Simone Brown (Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, non-voting), Joshua Chin (Alumni Representative, non-voting), Lucy Crowther (International Student Representative, non-voting), Olivia Ginnetti (Governance Affairs Coordinator, non-voting), Melissa Proietti (General Manager, non-voting), James Reid (Speaker, non-voting), Yasmin Beeai (Deputy Speaker, non-voting), Alissa Gharzouzi (Recording Secretary, non-voting).

Absent: Brigitta Chan (Parliamentarian), Simon Ngassam (Director), Seraphina Crema Black (Director), Rajan Duncan (Director)

1. Call to Order: **18:11**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:11.

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.

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The Chair gives the Land Acknowledgement.

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

The agenda is distributed.

The Chair asks whether there are any additions or changes to the agenda.

The Internal Counsel states that she would look favourably upon a motion to move the confidential session to the first item on the agenda.

Officer Knickerbocker moves to move the confidential session to the first item on the agenda.

Director Jason Wang seconds the motion.

The Chair asks whether there are any objections to the motion. Seeing none, the motion carries.

The Chair asks whether there are any other additions or changes to the agenda. Seeing none, the Chair asks whether there are any objections to adopting the agenda.

Seeing none, the agenda is adopted as amended.

4. Confidential Session:

- a. There is a Confidential Session this evening

The Public session resumes at 19:18.

5. Minutes for Approval

- a. [Board of Directors Public Minutes 2026-03-19](#) - **APPROVED**

The minutes are distributed.

The Chair asks whether there are any changes or additions to the minutes.

Seeing none, the Chair asks whether there are any objections to approving the minutes.

Seeing none, the minutes are approved.

- b. [Board of Directors Public Minutes 2026-04-23](#) - **APPROVED**

The minutes are distributed.

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The Chair asks whether there are any changes or additions to the minutes.

Seeing none, the Chair asks whether there are any objections to approving the minutes.

Seeing none, the minutes are approved.

6. Executive Committee Public Report 2026-06-16 – **RATIFIED**

Director Abu Alkhair presents the Executive Committee Public Report. The report includes several HR motions for approval, including updated job descriptions, renewals, and new contracts. Certain matters are not discussed in public session. The report also notes that, earlier that day, the Executive Committee approved a payment from CapEx for a laundry solution needed by the Events Department and the building. He states he will ensure the report is not late next time.

The Chair opens the floor to questions.

Seeing none, the Chair asks whether there are any objections to ratifying the Executive Committee Public Report.

Seeing none, the Executive Committee Public Report is ratified.

7. Announcements

a. Updating Contact Masterlist (Policy & Advocacy Coordinator Brown)

Coordinator Brown provides an update that a contact master list has been created for all Directors, Councillors, Senate Caucus members, committees, and SSMU staff. The list is intended to address the website's inability to keep up with ongoing changes. She asks members to ensure that their name, title, and email are correct so that individuals can contact the appropriate person depending on the concern and the member's role.

The Chair opens the floor to questions.

Seeing none, the announcement is concluded.

b. Motions in Advance Please!!! :) (Policy & Advocacy Coordinator Brown)

Coordinator Brown gives a reminder that motions should be sent in advance. She notes that members are busy and that she does not want to add stress, but that motions need to be submitted with at least 24 hours' notice to the Policy and Advocacy Coordinator. Motions are now reviewed by both herself and the Governance Affairs Coordinator, which requires coordinating two schedules. She has been flexible in the past, she will begin being more stringent about whether motions are officially approved as having been consulted on. Motions should be provided further in advance to prevent matters from

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slipping through the cracks. It is important that the Governance team have the opportunity to discuss motions in advance, particularly because the Board often votes on financial, legal, and HR matters that are important to the Society's functioning. The deadline is at least 24 hours in advance and clarifies that, if a motion is not submitted by Tuesday morning, members may not state that she approved or reviewed the motion.

The Chair opens the floor to questions.

Deputy Speaker Beeai states that the Secretariat is in favour of this reminder.

The Chair asks whether there are any further questions on the floor.

Seeing none, the announcement is concluded.

8. Motions for Approval

a. [Motion Regarding Changes to Events Protocol](#) (Director Abu-Alkair) - **APPROVED**

Director Abu Alkhair presents Motion 8a. The motion includes several consulted changes, including the creation of a new section concerning immediate incidents. Section 4 sets out a contact hierarchy for immediate concerns arising at different types of events. For example, where an incident occurs at a student group-related event, the Vice-President Clubs and Services is listed as the first point of contact, followed by the relevant hierarchy. Similar structures are included for other types of events, including internal events and external or off-campus events. The motion has been consulted on and that significant work has gone into moving it forward.

The Chair opens the floor to questions.

Seeing none, the Chair opens the floor to discussion.

Seeing no discussion, the Chair asks whether there are any objections to passing Motion 8a by unanimous consent.

Seeing none, Motion 8a is approved unanimously.

b. [Motion Regarding Food & Alcohol Protocol](#) (Director Abu-Alkair) - **APPROVED**

Director Abu Alkhair presents Motion 8b. The motion concerns the Food and Alcohol Protocol. The protocol seeks to create a governance structure for the distribution and service of food and alcohol. It also aims to prevent alcohol-related incidents and ensure that the relevant procedures and responsibilities are clearly defined. The protocol has been heavily consulted on and provides a brief overview for members who have not yet reviewed it.

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The Chair opens the floor to questions.

Coordinator Ginnetti asks when the Anti-Violence Coordinators were consulted on the protocol.

Coordinator Brown states that the consultation occurred a long time ago, in a separate meeting concerning the division of Equity commissioners and the Anti-Violence Coordinators, particularly regarding concerns about when the Anti-Violence Coordinators should be brought into processes. She recalls that the discussion related to training and that Internal Counsel may have consulted with them.

Coordinator Ginnetti states that the Anti-Violence Coordinators were never consulted.

Director Abu Alkhair moves to remove the Anti-Violence Coordinators from the list of consultations for the motion.

Director Jason Wang seconds the amendment.

The Chair confirms that the motion has been amended.

The Chair asks whether there are any further questions.

Seeing none, the Chair opens the floor to discussion.

Seeing no discussion, the Chair asks whether there are any objections to passing Motion 8b by unanimous consent.

Seeing none, Motion 8b is approved unanimously.

c. Motion to Approve the Insurance Package Invoice (Director J. Wang) - **APPROVED**

Following Discussion Point 9a.i, the Chair asks whether there are any further questions.

Seeing none, the Chair opens the floor to discussion.

Seeing no discussion, the Chair asks whether there are any objections to passing Motion 8c by unanimous consent.

Seeing none, Motion 8c is approved unanimously.

9. For Discussion

a. Updates and renewal of our insurance (General Manager Proietti)

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General Manager Proietti presents Discussion Point 9a. The agenda includes a link to the combined insurance documents submitted by SSMU's insurance broker. All insurance quotes other than the first one represent the same insurance coverage SSMU has had in the past. The only increase in those costs is the standard renewal increase of approximately 3% CPI. These coverages include media insurance and Directors and Officers insurance, among others, and remain unchanged.

The point brought forward for discussion concerns the first insurance quote from Markel, which is SSMU's general liability insurance. This quote has increased significantly from the previous year, by approximately \$10,000. The increase is due to SSMU taking on responsibility for athletics clubs, which significantly increases insurance coverage costs. The general liability insurance includes the regular 3% increase, as well as approximately \$6,000 in additional coverage associated with the athletics clubs, according to the insurance broker. The document also identifies other insurance coverages that SSMU should consider if it is covering the athletics teams. Some of these are optional. Property insurance, which covers property in cases such as earthquake, flood, or sewer backup, is optional. This would cover sports team equipment regardless of where it is stored, including equipment not stored in the University Centre. Inland marine insurance is also included. Although this type of insurance is not specifically designed only for marine equipment, it applies to property that moves. This is relevant because the sailing team has boats and therefore requires added coverage for movable property. The quoted amount for inland marine insurance covers all property used by the sailing team, rather than requiring each boat to be insured separately. Crime insurance is also included and covers theft or other property-related incidents arising from crime. The total general liability insurance coverage comes to approximately \$64,940, which is significantly higher than the previous year due to the addition of athletics clubs. She also notes that SSMU's current insurance coverage ends at the end of July. If SSMU proceeds with the proposed coverage, she will contact the insurance broker the next day, and the new coverage will begin once SSMU signs on. SSMU would then receive a refund for the unused portion of the previous policy. Approximately two weeks earlier, the refund would have been around \$5,000. The current refund may be slightly lower, likely around \$4,000 to \$4,500, which could be deducted from the approximately \$65,000 total.

The Chair opens the floor to discussion.

Director Jason Wang asks whether signing the insurance policy sooner would increase the refund from the previous policy, and whether delaying the signing would affect the policy period or whether the policy period would run from June 1 to June 1 regardless.

General Manager Proietti explains that the policy period begins once SSMU signs on to the new policy. The coverage would run for one year from the date of signing. She notes that the previous policy likely began in July, which is why it currently covers SSMU until July. If SSMU signs the new policy in June,

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the new coverage would run from June 2026 to June 2027, and SSMU would receive a refund for the unused portion of the previous policy.

Director Jason Wang asks whether it would effectively be cheaper to wait until the end of July to sign the new policy. He notes that the refund period is tied to the date on which SSMU signs the new policy. Since the new quote is more expensive than the previous policy, he asks whether it would be better to preserve a longer potential refund period for the future, when SSMU may have a more expensive insurance package. He asks whether the sailing team is currently active.

Director Abu Alkhair states that the season is starting soon.

Officer Knickerbocker states that the sailing team starts at the end of August.

Director Jason Wang states that, if SSMU signs at the end of July, the new insurance coverage would still begin before the sailing team's season starts. He suggests that doing so could preserve a longer refund period in the future, where a refund may provide a greater financial benefit.

General Manager Proietti responds that SSMU should consider that this year involves a change in insurance coverage, as additional insurance is being added. In future years, SSMU would likely be maintaining the same insurance coverage for the sailing team and other sports teams, rather than changing or adapting the policy in the same way. The refund arises because SSMU is adapting the current insurance policy; otherwise, the process would generally be a renewal.

Director Jason Wang states that he understands, but asks what would happen if, three or four years later, SSMU again changes its insurance policy by adding more elements or additional coverage. He notes that, if SSMU signs in June now, a future refund period would likely begin around June. If SSMU waits until July, a future refund period could include both June and July, potentially giving SSMU a longer refund period if future coverage changes.

Officer Knickerbocker asks whether Director Jason Wang is proposing that SSMU delay signing the entire insurance policy. She notes that other teams, such as baseball, start in the first week of July. SSMU also needs to purchase or acquire equipment from McGill before the season begins, and that equipment should be insured when SSMU acquires it, not only once teams begin competing. While sailing is a significant part of the insurance due to the number of boats, other teams are also active during the summer. SSMU is storing equipment in the Athletics and Recreation Centre, acquiring equipment and clubs, and arranging travel insurance. She asks whether these considerations are being taken into account, as clubs will begin activities within weeks.

Director Jason Wang asks for clarification on what is new in the proposed policy, specifically whether crime insurance was part of the previous insurance policy or is entirely new coverage.

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General Manager Proietti states that crime insurance is new. The previous year's policy only included commercial general liability insurance, while the proposed policy includes additional coverage for other areas.

Director Jason Wang withdraws his suggestion to delay signing the policy, noting that he had forgotten that crime insurance is new.

The Deputy Speaker states that they would look favourably upon a motion to implement the new insurance policy.

Director Jason Wang moves to allow the General Manager to sign the new insurance policy.

Director Harry Wang seconds.

Director Abu Alkhair raises a point of order and states that the motion should be to approve the invoice, rather than to authorize the signature. He clarifies that the Board is approving payment for the insurance and suggests rephrasing the motion.

The Deputy Speaker asks whether this is a friendly amendment to the phrasing.

Director Jason Wang agrees and moves to approve the insurance package.

Director Harry Wang seconds.

The Chair asks whether there are any further points of discussion regarding the motion.

Seeing none, Discussion Point 9a is concluded.

10. Adjournment: 19:59

The Chair asks whether there is any outstanding business for the public session.

Seeing none, the Chair adjourns the public session at 19:59.