Conseil d'administration
Board of Directors

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

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AÉUM SSMU

SSMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MINUTES

July 21, 2026

APPROVED

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, July 21 at 18:00.

Present: Hamza Abu Alkhair (Director), Keith Baybayon (Director), Rajan Duncan (Director), Simon Ngassam (Director), Meghan Lai (Director), Harry Wang (Director), Jason Wang (Director), Acadia Knickerbocker (Officer, non-voting), Maggie Tang (Officer, non-voting), Joshua Chin (Alumni 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), Brigitta Chan (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Alison Glaser (Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary, non-voting).

Absent: Simone Brown (Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, non-voting), Lucy Crowther (International Student Representative, non-voting), Alissa Gharzouzi (Recording Secretary, non-voting)

Late: Seraphina Crema Black (Director)

1. Call to Order: 18:05

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:05.

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair gives 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.

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

The agenda is distributed.

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

Seeing none, the Chair asks if any are opposed to adopting the agenda.

Seeing none, the agenda is adopted.

4. Minutes for Approval
    a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2026-05-19 - **POSTPONED**

The minutes are distributed.

The Chair asks whether there are any proposed changes.

Director Ngassam notes that, at his final Board meeting, several outgoing Directors requested an opportunity to review the Board minutes prior to his approval. He asks whether the outgoing Directors have reviewed the minutes under item 4a.

Internal Counsel Glaser states that the previous set of minutes was circulated to the outgoing Directors but that the present set was not. She offers to circulate the minutes for review.

Director Ngassam proposes that the minutes be approved conditionally, subject to a one-week review period. If no changes are requested, the minutes are deemed approved; otherwise, they are reconsidered at the next meeting. He formally moves this procedure for the minutes under items 4a and 4c.

Director Lai seconds the motion.

The Chair asks whether there is any opposition to the motion.

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Seeing none, the motion has been approved.

Director Ngassam subsequently withdraws the portion of the motion concerning item 4c, having realized that it concerns Legislative Council minutes.

The Chair clarifies that the approved review procedure applies only to item 4a.

The approval of the minutes under item 4a is postponed pending the one-week review period.

b. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2026-06-16 - **APPROVED**

The minutes are distributed.

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

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

Seeing none, the minutes are approved.

c. Legislative Council Public Minutes 2026-04-09 - **APPROVED**

The minutes are distributed.

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

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

Seeing none, the minutes are approved.

5. Executive Committee Public Report 2026-07-21 – **POSTPONED**

President Abu Alkhair presents the public report of the Executive Committee, providing a high-level overview of the approved motions. He reports that several human resources motions were approved, including the hiring of full-time employees for positions previously approved by the Board, notably the Clubs and Services Finance Coordinator and Communications Coordinator positions. He also notes the approval of payments related to the building, the bar, and merchandise, and stands for questions.

The Chair opens the floor to questions.

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Internal Counsel Glaser recalls that salaries associated with specific positions or individuals are not to be included in the public minutes.

President Abu Alkhair asks whether the restriction applies only to identifying individuals or also to disclosing salaries, noting that salaries are publicly available when positions are posted.
Internal Counsel Glaser recommends confirming the matter with HR before publishing the report on the website.

President Abu Alkhair agrees to note this requirement.

Director Ngassam notes that several listed hourly rates are approximately $13 per hour, which is below the general minimum wage, and asks whether these figures represent increases or contain typographical errors.

General Manager Proietti explains that she believes the amounts reflect the minimum wage applicable to tipped positions.

The Chair asks whether there are any further questions.

Director Ngassam moves to adopt the report subject to confirmation from HR regarding the disclosure of salaries and, if necessary, the redaction of salary information.

Director Wang seconds the motion.

The Chair asks whether there is any opposition to the motion.

Seeing none, the motion has been approved and ratification of the Executive Committee Report is postponed pending confirmation from HR.

6. Announcements
7. Motions for Approval
    a. Motion to amend the Governance Calendar to extend the First-Year Council election period, on the recommendation of the Chief Returning Officer, to the following (President Abu Alkhair, seconded Director Ngassam): **APPROVED**
        i. Nomination period (15 days): August 31 - September 14
        ii. Extended Nomination period (2 days): until September 16 (any position less than 2 candidates)

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iii. Candidates' Meeting: September 16
iv. Campaigning period (4 days): September 17 - 20
v. Voting period (12 days): September 21 - October 2

President Abu Alkhair presents Motion 7a. He explains that the motion seeks to amend the Governance Calendar for the First-Year Council elections following a recommendation from the Elections team. He recalls concerns raised during the previous year that the election timeline did not provide first-year students with sufficient time to acclimate to the McGill environment. The proposed amendments extend the nomination and campaigning periods, provide an additional nomination period for vacant or uncontested positions, and aim to have the First-Year Council fully constituted by October 2. The newly established First-Year Council fee will provide funding for events and other operations serving first-year students.

The Chair opens the floor to questions.

Director Jason Wang asks which specific periods are extended and whether the proposed change amounts to an extension of only two days.

Internal Counsel Glaser explains that the voting and campaigning periods are extended. Upon reviewing the calendar, the Chief Returning Officer determined that the First-Year Council election period is approximately two or three days shorter than the regular election period. The proposed changes align the two timelines to ensure fairness.

The Chair asks if there are any other questions.

Seeing none, the Chair opens the floor to discussion.

Seeing none, the Chair asks if any are opposed to approving Motion 7a by unanimous consent.

Seeing none, Motion 7a is approved unanimously.

8. For Discussion
    a. Amendments to the Board of Directors Standing Rules (Speaker Reid)

The Chair explains that the Secretariat has been considering measures to establish clearer rules and improve transparency regarding which matters are recorded in the Board's public and confidential minutes. Regarding Section 27, the Chair explains that it identifies matters that must be discussed and

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recorded confidentially, including financial details concerning salaries, benefits, and contracts; names and other personal information; legal matters; and confidential information originating from other governing bodies. Matters not included in this list are presumed to be discussed in public session.

Regarding Section 28, the Chair explains that it addresses discussions that should generally be made public but may contain confidential information. It permits confidential portions of a discussion to be recorded separately in the confidential minutes while preserving the general substance of the discussion in the public minutes.

Regarding Section 29, the Chair explains that a matter discussed in public session may be moved to confidential session with the approval of a majority of Directors.

Finally, regarding Section 30, the Chair explains that a matter discussed in confidential session may be disclosed publicly with the approval of two-thirds of the Board. If the Board determines after a meeting that a confidential discussion should be made public, the matter may be decided through an email vote.

The Chair opens the floor to discussion.

Director Crema Black arrives at 18:22.

Director Ngassam identifies Section 28 as their primary concern. He supports the ability to divide a matter into public and confidential portions but notes that the Board may need to alternate repeatedly between public and confidential sessions if an issue is overlooked. When guests are present, this may create difficulties for both the Secretariat and the guests, although they are uncertain how this concern could be addressed.

Internal Counsel Glaser explains that, in practice, the public and confidential portions of a matter will most likely be identified in advance. She provides the Chief Returning Officer's report as an example, noting that part of the report is public and part is confidential. She anticipates that the agenda will clearly distinguish between the portions to be addressed in each session, thereby limiting the need to alternate repeatedly between public and confidential sessions.

Officer Knickerbocker asks whether the omission of budget and election reports from the list of confidential matters is intentional.

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The Chair confirms that the omission is not intentional and explains that the list is intended to provide broad categories, particularly regarding human resources matters. The phrase "including but not limited to" allows other matters to be treated as confidential when necessary.

Officer Knickerbocker asks whether the Secretariat considered amendments to the remaining Standing Rules and whether those provisions have also been reviewed.

The Chair confirms that the remaining rules are reviewed and revised to align with the newly proposed provisions and ensure consistency throughout the Standing Rules.

Officer Knickerbocker identifies several additional matters for consideration. She notes that the Board does not use placards, despite the reference to them in Section 7. Regarding Section 11(ii), the provision concerning the misgendering of staff and Directors permits a Director to raise a point of personal privilege when another Director is misgendered. She suggests considering a more discreet procedure, as publicly drawing attention to the incident may not be desired. Section 25 assigns responsibility for taking minutes to the Deputy Speaker, although this responsibility now belongs to the Recording Secretary. The Standing Rules do not currently permit the Board to vote on multiple motions or sets of minutes as a block. As the Board frequently approves several sets of minutes together to avoid separate discussions and votes, she recommends codifying this practice.

The Chair responds that the provision concerning misgendering may be amended to allow the matter to be raised privately with the Secretariat following the meeting, thereby maintaining discretion and the comfort of those involved. Regarding Section 7, he acknowledges that placards are generally not used during Board meetings and suggests amending the provision to refer to raising a hand or a placard while retaining the reference to placards where applicable. He also confirms that Section 25 will be amended to replace Deputy Speaker with Recording Secretary.

Officer Knickerbocker notes that Section 18(a) requires the minutes to include the voting record for any roll-call vote. This requirement was not followed during the previous year and that, unlike Legislative Council voting records, the votes of individual Directors are not ordinarily published. She asks whether the Board wishes to begin following this practice or amend the provision.

Internal Counsel Glaser asks whether a roll-call record identifies individual Directors or records only the numerical result.

The Chair clarifies that it identifies individual Directors.

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Internal Counsel Glaser recommends removing Section 18(a).

The Chair states that the Secretariat will discuss the provision before the proposed amendments are submitted for approval, either during a touch-base meeting or at a separate meeting of the Secretariat. He then asks whether there are any further questions or concerns regarding the proposed additions to Sections 27 through 30.

Seeing none, the Chair confirms that the Secretariat will consider the recommendations, incorporate the appropriate revisions, and return the updated Standing Rules to the Board for further review.

9. Confidential Session:
    a. There is a Confidential Session this evening
10. Adjournment: **20:39**

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

Seeing none, the public session is adjourned at 20:39.

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