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

October 20, 2026

APPROVED

The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) was held by teleconference and in the SSMU Boardroom on Tuesday, October 20 at 18:00.

Present: Hamza Abu Alkhair (Director), Keith Babayon (Director), Meghan Lai (Director), Harry Wang (Director,) Jason Wang (Director), Rhys Jones (Director), Seraphina Crema-Black (Director), Paul Prendergast (Director), Acadia Knickerbocker (Officer, non-voting), Maggie Tang (Officer, non-voting), Joshua Chin (Alumni Representative, non-voting), Melissa Proietti (General Manager, non-voting), James Reid (Speaker, non-voting), Yasmin Beeai (Deputy Speaker, non-voting), Brigitta Chan (Parliamentarian, non-voting), Alissa Gharzouzi (Recording Secretary, non-voting), Alison Glaser (Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary).

Absent: Olivia Ginnetti (Governance Affairs Coordinator, non-voting), Lucy Crowther (International Student Representative, non-voting), Simon Ngassam (Director).

Late: Ammar Lila (Director)

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

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

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair gives the land acknowledgment.

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 Chair asks if there are any changes or amendments to the Agenda. Seeing none, the Chairs asks if there is any opposition to the adoption of the Agenda. Seeing none, the Agenda is adopted.

4. Presentation
    a. Director Fiduciary Duties and Ethics (Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary)

Internal Counsel Glaser presents Director Fiduciary Duties and Ethics.

5. Confidential Session:
    a. There is a Confidential Session this evening
6. Call to Order: **19:36**

The public session is called back to order at 19:36.

7. Minutes for Approval
    a. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2026-08-18 - **RATIFIED**
    b. Board of Directors Public Minutes 2026-09-15 - **RATIFIED**

Seeing no questions or updates, the Chair asks if there is any opposition to the ratification of the Minutes. Seeing none, the Minutes are ratified.

8. Legislative Council Motions not Disallowed

The Chair reminds Board of the Council motions that had been sent to them for disallowance, none of which were disallowed. They are placed here in the agenda for reference.

9. Executive Committee Public Report 2026-10-20 – **RATIFIED**

Director Abu-Alkhair presents the report, which he reminds the Board is the same as the confidential version with names redacted.

Seeing no questions or discussion, the Chair asks if there is any opposition to the ratification of the Report. Seeing none, the Report is ratified.

10. Nominating Committee Reports
    a. Report of the Nominating Committee (Redacted)– **RATIFIED**

Parliamentarian Chan presents the report, which she reminds the Board is the same as the confidential version with names redacted.

APPROVED

Seeing no questions or discussion, the Chair asks if there is any opposition to the ratification of the Report. Seeing none, the Report is ratified.

11. Announcements
    a. Thank You to the BoD Member-at-Large

The Chair reminds the Board that the term for the current Board Members-At-Large ends November 15, before the next Board meeting. He thanks them for their time and dedication on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Director Crema-Black thanks them all for their dedication to the Society. Director Lai says they have set the bar high.

12. Motions for Ratification
    a. MOTION REGARDING THE ACADEMIC BOYCOTT OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM EXCHANGE PROGRAM ("HUJI BOYCOTT") - **RATIFIED** (Director Abu-Alkhair, Director Duncan)

Director Abu-Alkhair presents the results of the ratification Motion. He confirms all the proper steps for the ratification have been met, around 80% voted in favour. He clarifies that if the Board does not pre-ratify something (like they do with referendum questions), they are obligated to ratify afterwards.

Director [unheard] asks if we excerpt McGill to sanction the SSMU for this.

Director Abu-Alkhair gives some background. He explains it's rarely been the case to have such motions be so tangible, they have often been about policies in the past. This time the Motion directly compels the VP-UA and President to bring this to McGill Senate. As they anticipated this motion to pass, they have already begun some consultations in advance of bringing the Motion to Senate. He cannot imagine what grounds McGill would have to terminate the MOA or anything similar, since students are exercising their right within our governance structure to mandate their representatives to do something.

Officer Knickerbocker asks about the consequences of the Board passing this. Director Abu-Alkhair calls to the responsibility of the Board to the Society. He reminds the Board that their main function is to examine legal, financial, and operational consequences. Outside that, authority is generally delegated to Council or GA.

Director Jones asks if Director Abu-Alkhair could outline the difference between this motion and the ones that did lead to serious legal distress to the society.

APPROVED

Director Abu-Alkhair explains that in the strike motion, the University pointed the finger to SSMU regarding the after-affects of the strike. SSMU's argument was that it followed its governance structure, and any individual actions students were doing are their own. If a student, say, breaks a piano in the UC, they are acting on their own and not on behalf of SSMU. When the MOA talks were happening, it was pretty contentious, and we are seeing it again with the LSA where the administration sent out a statement to all the students , not exactly telling students what to do, but that is how it's been taken by many students.

The Chair opens the floor to discussion.

Director Crema-Black seeks clarification on consultations that have taken place. Director Lai states they've told the Provost and Dean of Students that the Motion is coming. Director Crema-Black asks what the conversations looked like. Director Abu-Alkhair says the conversations were very preliminary, since it was before the GA, but they told them the Motion was coming and that was likely going to be coming to McGill Senate. A similar question had gone to Senate in 2025 about other exchanges, and was not well-received, but had followed a different procedure since it was a question and not a Motion. Director Crema-Black asks if there was a negative reaction this time. Director Abu-Alkhair says the Administration's position is that changes to exchanges isn't on the table. However, it is under Senate's purview since they oversee the Academic Policy Committee.

Director Prendergast asks what Director Abu-Alkhair envisions doing with this mandate. Director Abu-Alkhair states he feels they've already started, they've started working on the document to go to Senate, they need to engage in consultations, then it is sent to Steering. After that it is up to them. If Steering says no they will have fulfilled their mandate. If Steering says yes, they will present the Motion to Senate.

Director Crema-Black asks if McGill Senate allows motions from the floor, and if so, if they could bring the motion from the floor if Steering says no. Director Lai responds that she hasn't seen a motion brought from the floor. She commits to checking the standing rules, but she suspects it wouldn't be well-received by anyone as the members like to have the time to read and all the consultations beforehand, particularly for something this big.

Seeing no further questions or discussion, the Chair asks if there is any opposition to the ratification of Motion 12a. Seeing none, Motion 12a is ratified.

b. MOTION REGARDING CKUT EXISTENCE REFERENDUM - **RATIFIED** (Director Abu-Alkhair, Director Jones)

APPROVED

Director Abu-Alkhair cedes his time to Officer Tang, who presents Motion 12b. The Motion had been approved at Legislative Council, and then reviewed by McGill. This is the final wording to go on the ballot.

Seeing no questions or discussion, the Chair asks if there is any opposition to the ratification of Motion 12b. Seeing none, Motion 12b is ratified.

c. MOTION REGARDING QPIRG-MCGILL EXISTENCE **- RATIFIED** (Director Abu-Alkhair, Director Jones)

Director Abu-Alkhair cedes his time to Officer Tang, who presents Motion 12b. The Motion had been approved at Legislative Council, and then reviewed by McGill. This is the final wording to go on the ballot.

Seeing no questions or discussion, the Chair asks if there is any opposition to the ratification of Motion 12b. Seeing none, Motion 12b is ratified.

d. MOTION REGARDING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR ATHLETIC TEAMS - **RATIFIED** (Director Abu-Alkhair, Director Duncan)

Director Jones recuses himself from the two athletics motions as he is currently a team coach.

Director Abu-Alkhair cedes his time to Officer Knickerbocker, who presents Motion 12d. This constitutional amendment needs to go through before the Internal regulations can be updated. This only establishes Athletics Teams as a concept, under the purview of the VP Clubs & Services, and allowing them to have a Councillor representative. This was an action requested by Legislative Council the previous year, which is coming to fruition now. The fine tune details or what the processes will look like will be in updates to the Internal Regulations to come.

Seeing no questions or discussion, the Chair asks if there is any opposition to the ratification of Motion 12d. Seeing none, Motion 12d is ratified.

e. MOTION REGARDING PLATE CLUB FEE INCREASE - **RATIFIED** (Director Abu-Alkhair, Director Duncan)

Director Abu-Alkhair cedes his time to Officer Knickerbocker, who presents Motion 12e. The Plate CLub, in consultation with HR Manager, has requested a fee increase. Their operations have expanded significantly from previous years. With that, and with the increase in the amount of orders they are fulfilling, their current operations are not sustainable. The additional man hours and resources need around $0.35 per semester. Ratification will allow this to be added to the ballot. Seeing no questions or discussion, the Chair asks if there is any opposition to the ratification of Motion 12e. Seeing none, Motion 12e is ratified.

APPROVED

f. Motion Regarding Plebiscite Question for SSMU Athletic Team Fee - **RATIFIED** (Director Abu-Alkhair, Director Duncan)

Director Abu-Alkhair cedes his time to Officer Knickerbocker, who presents Motion 12f. TShe reminds the Board that plebiscites are non-binding and are for informational purposes. The intention is to motion at the winter referendum for an athletic fee based on student consultations and feedback.

Seeing no questions or discussion, the Chair asks if there is any opposition to the ratification of Motion 12f. Seeing none, Motion 12f is ratified.

13. For Discussion
    a. Appointment of Directors to BoD Committees

Deputy Speaker Beeai explains they are seeking to populate Board Committees missing members. She presents the different committees.

Director Jones and Director H. Wang volunteer to be on the Governance Reform Committee.

Director Prendergast and Director Jones volunteer to be on the Finance Committee.

Director Crema-Black volunteers to be on the HR Committee.

The Chair notes that they still require Directors for the Accountability Committee and GSVP. The Deputy Speaker reminds Directors they are not large time commitments. Director Abu-Alkhair suggests waiting on the new Board members to fill the 4 missing positions. The Deputy Speaker agrees.

b. Upcoming email motions re: plebiscite questions

The Chair explains that these are upcoming plebiscite questions for the Fall referendum. The Chief Returning Officer had noted that, since the wording does not need to go to McGill, they can be approved at the next Legislative Council. He is informing the Board in advance about these. If they are accepted by Council, there will be an email motion to Board for approval.

i. Library Improvement Fund

Director Lai presents the proposed Motion. The fund is used primarily for extending library hours. They wish to ask the membership what they would like us to prioritize with the fund. This feedback would be used to inform future plans.

ii. Affordability

Director H. Wang explains that a big focus of the external Affairs portfolio is on affordability, housing, and transportation. However, they are missing data, which this plebiscite is intended to provide such data. A survey of this kind has not yet been done on students' transportation and housing.

APPROVED

c. Budget deadline (Director J. Wang)
    i. Motion to extend the deadline to present the Revised Operating Budget to the Legislative Council for November 19th, 2026 (Director J.Wang, Director Jones) - **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Director J. Wang states that the IRs of Finance mandate the VP Finance to report the Revised Operating Budget to the Legislative Council by October 31. The IRs also allow the Board of Directors to extend the deadline. HAe is seeking an extension to November 19, 2026. He is seeing that information he's being provided is flawed, so he is resolving the data allocation issue. Also, the most recent set of data is up to August, while most activities happen in September and October so he is missing key data. After FDour Floors, there are no major activities planned, so the delay should not unduly affect the Society.

Director Abu-Alkhair asks if there is a timeline for consultation on the budget. Director J. Wang states that the Accounting team sits with each Director to see if the actuals are correct and the General manager would then review with them, but since the data has been wrong for many departments this hasn't taken place yet while this is sorted out.

Seeing no further questions or discussion, the Chair asks if there is any opposition to the ratification of Motion 13ci. Seeing none, Motion 13ci is approved.

    ii. Motion to extend the deadline to present the Revised Operating Budget to the Board of Directors at the next Board of Directors meeting following the November 19th, 2026 Legislative Council Meeting. (Director J. Wang, Director Jones) - **APPROVED**

Motion 13cii is added to extend the deadline for presentation to the Board of Directors following the approval of Motion 13ci. Seeing no questions or discussion, the Chair asks if there is any opposition to the ratification of Motion 13cii. Seeing none, Motion 13cii is approved.

14. Adjournment: **20:23**

APPROVED