



The Board of Directors meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) will be held by teleconference on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 18:00.

Present: Lauren Hill (Chair, non-voting), Jemark Earle (Officer), Brooklyn Frizzle (Officer), Maheen Akter (Officer), Gifford Marpole (Officer), Ayo Ogunremi (Officer, non-voting, arrived at 21:16, left at 21:44), Paige Collins (Legislative Councillor), Alex Karasick (Legislative Councillor), Benson Wan (Legislative Councillor), Rohan Bhutkar (Member-at-Large), Ana Paula Sanchez (Member-at-Large, left at 21:50), Beatrice Mackie (Member-at-Large), Daniel Dufour (General Manager, non-voting, left at 21:02), Addy Parsons (International Student Representative, non-voting), Chip Smith (Legislative Councillor, arrived at 18:15), Adin Chan (Member-at-Large, arrived at 18:11), Sam Haward (Recording Secretary, non-voting, arrived at 18:54)

1. Call to Order:

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 18:08.

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Adoption of the Agenda — **A A E**

Director Earle asks to move into a confidential session immediately following item 3 as there are some guests who will be presenting. There are no other changes to the agenda. The agenda is approved unanimously.

[The Board enters a confidential session at 18:10.]

[The Board returns from confidential session at 20:26.]

4. Executive Committee Report

Director Earle presents the report of the Executive Committee. They note the hiring of the External Affairs and Community Affairs Coordinators. In addition, the Executive Committee signed on to an open letter proposing conditions on behalf of the SSMU. In addition, the Executive Committee approved the job description for the campus crops coordinators.

There are no questions on the report.

5. Discussion on the Renewal of Fees

Director Wan notes that there were three (3) fee renewals proposed by Services that have run surpluses in the past. They ask the Board for their input given that these Services seem to be running a profit year on year, and that the SSMU should be a not for profit organization.

Director Marpole responds that the fee investigation report was brought before the Board



Director Frizzle states that they understand and agree, but add that this is a grey area of both politics and financial matters. They continue that the SSMU does not have to wait for fees to expire, so there is no issue with the expiration dates of these fees.

Director Wan states that he would be in favour of shorter fee durations to improve accountability of Services when following new guidelines. Director Marpole agrees with Director Frizzle, stating that they do not believe that it matters when these fees expire.

There is no further discussion.

6. Legislative Council Motions for Ratification:

The Board approves items b, c, f, i-m and o-s by unanimous consent.

Director Smith states that the Faculty of Arts taking control of the Writing Centre’s management will have no effect on the services offered to all SSMU members, and has received confirmation on this from the interim Dean of Arts.

- a. [Motion Regarding Policy on Harmful Military Technology 2021-01-28](#) — **F**

Director Karasick states that they have concerns with the wording in this policy. They state that the scope of the policy is unclear, and that it contains numerous pieces of incorrect information. They state that this is not good governance, and in addition definitions are broad such that it could be interpreted as the SSMU having a position against nuclear power. This motion threatens the SSMU’s relationship with the University, and there is no way that it is actionable at the University level. They believe that this motion is infeasible as written.

Director Frizzle states that these concerns were addressed at the Legislative Council, so if there are no operational concerns, they don’t understand how the Board of Directors has rationale to act here. They state that this falls under the portfolio of the VP University Affairs, not the Board of Directors. They state that this is a purely political motion and the Board should not interject at this point, given that the concerns raised were already brought up in the Legislative Council. Director Bhutkar states that the notion that something isn’t in the Board’s purview is false. They continue that Directors have the obligation to ensure that things that pass through the Board are sound, and that Directors can do whatever they see fit to ensure that the corporation functions properly. They state that Directors should be looking at proposed policies with regard to how it impacts relationships between the SSMU and other entities that it works with.

Director Mackie thanks Director Karasick for bringing up this point and the discussions had at the Legislative Council that many Directors do not get to participate in. They state that they believe Director Karasick’s concerns are important, and ask them to elaborate on what they believe is

incorrect in this motion. They continue by noting that Director Karasick's concerns come from a place of seeking good governance which is the purview of the Board.

Director Karasick states that many of their points were not addressed properly at the Legislative Council, and this policy does directly affect the Board. As an example of incorrect information, the

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addressed at the Legislative Council, and the policy was passed regardless. They do not believe concerns already discussed at Council are a valid reason to return this policy. Director Mackie proposes returning the motion to the Steering Committee to review the facts of the motion. Directors Sanchez and Wan state that they are amenable to this.

[VP External arrives at 21:15.]
[The Board enters a recess from 21:16 to 21:21.]

VP External states that they would like to address concerns with this policy. Director Karasick expresses the points regarding factual inaccuracies and concerns regarding scope. They continue that they are concerned that this policy will harm relationships with the university as its goals will result in a significant loss of funding for the university.

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Director Ogunremi asks why these concerns are sufficient to warrant returning the motion to the Legislative Council and why the motion was not amended at the Legislative Council.

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Steering Committee as a review should not propose a problem. She continues that movers of motions at the Legislative Council have a duty to ensure that their motions are accurate. International Student Representative Parsons agrees, and if false information was presented to the Legislative Council this could change the debate or mislead Councillors. She notes that they agree ratifying this motion would be negligence on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Voting Procedure:

F Director Earle, Director Collins, Director Karasick, Director Wan, Director Bmu

- i. [Motion to Approve the SSAMMOSA Committee Terms of Reference 2021-02-11](#)
A A E

The motion is approved unanimously.

- j. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on Renewal of the Mental Health Fee 2021-02-11](#) **A A E**

The motion is approved unanimously.

- k. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on the Renewal of the Anti-Violence Fee 2021-02-11](#) — **A A E**

The motion is approved unanimously.

- l. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on the Renewal of the SSMU Access Bursary Fund Fee 2021-02-11](#) **A A E**

The motion is approved unanimously.

- m. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on the Renewal of the University Centre Fee 2021-02-11](#) — **A A E**

The motion is approved unanimously.

- n. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on the the Renewal of the TVM: Student Television at McGill Fee 2021-02-11](#) — **A E**

The motion is approved.

- o. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on Discretionary Funding for Queer McGill 2021-02-11](#) **A A E**

The motion is approved unanimously.

- p. [Motion Regarding Referendum Question on the Renewal of the Access McGill Ancillary Fee 2021-02-11](#) **A A E**

The motion is approved unanimously.

- q. [Motion Regarding a Renewal and Increase of the WUSC Student Refugee Program Fee 2021-02-11](#) **A E**

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