





## 5 Minutes for Approval

- a. Fall 2021 General Assembly Minutes 2021-10-18-  
Seeing no changes or corrections to the minutes, they stand as distributed.

## 6 Announcements

- a. Announcement by the President: Addressing the Constituents

President Daryanani thanks everyone for joining the General Assembly. He presents himself for those who don't know him. When he first came into his position as President in June 2021, he was aware that SSMU has not always been a safe workplace for students of colour and marginalized groups, and he has witnessed this firsthand. For this reason, part of his platform was to make SSMU more accessible and equitable. Unfortunately, three and a half (3½) months into his term, the Board of Directors decided to suspend him with pay in a confidential session from which he was excluded. When the President asked for the reason for his suspension, he was met with further retaliation and extensions of his suspension. He was barred from performing his tasks as President, and still does not understand why he was suspended, and why the Board lied about him being on leave of absence. On Sunday, February 13, the Board asked him to return to his role, because the reasons for the suspension were deemed inadmissible. The suspension was not his choice, and should not have happened. When the President was first suspended, he was committed to respecting the process, but during this time the Board did not comply with its own suspension conditions. There was no real interest from the Board to resolve the issue in a fair and timely manner. He does not believe the Board's actions were in the interests of anyone at McGill. During this time, Board members made their decisions behind closed doors, tried to censor student media, manipulated rules of procedure and further abused their power.

The decision to reinstate him [President] was only made after he was forced to resort to spending thousands of dollars on legal aid. Had he not resorted to legal counsel, it appears to him that the suspension would have been extended until the end of his term. The fact that the Board of Directors asked him to resume his responsibilities and duties confirms what he suspected: that his suspension was unreasonable and unjustified. The Board of Directors should have known better. The rumours and misinformation resulting from his absence have left the President stained in the eyes of many fellow students. The misleading narrative that he had been on leave of absence led students to believe that he had been delinquent in his duties. This rhetoric often plays into the narrative of people of colour being unfit for positions of authority, and in an institution as overwhelmingly white as SSMU, his unjust suspension constitutes a double standard, which he does not believe would be levied against a white Officer. This is not an isolated incident, but it was an instance that harmed his professional and moral credibility.

The President continues that during the few months he was in office, he had received many disclosures and complaints from SSMU employees who were distraught and reported their experience of harassment and discrimination. Student money being misused is taken away from the funds that





absence, how determined he is to building a new concrete framework for SSMU, even if it means restructuring the entire SSMU.

President Daryanani responds that he is surprised that the blame has been put on an Executive who has been forced out of office by the Board to continue to fix the problems. Personally, he remains committed to make SSMU a place where everyone feels comfortable. Over the three (3) months he was in Office, he laid the foundation to carry out an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee to ensure that such feedback is well received; to ensure that HR processes are safe to ensure they have anti-racist and anti-oppressive training for all Councilors, Senators and staff. He remains committed, but the five min, :





number of people for quorum. As long as there is a reason, they can call for the meeting and they can pass a motion for the removal of an Officer if they have quorum.

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Council President ~~Tringali~~ adds that only 50 signatures are required, from members of the Society, or a resolution can be passed by the Legislative Council. This would initiate the process of removing an officer.

The Speaker will begin enforcing the two (2)-minute speaking time rule.

VP External Affairs Delouvrier clarifies that a call for a Special General Assembly for removal of an Officer can also be required, f



as is the Society. In terms of culture, a lot of work needs to be done. Taking accountability for individuals is very important.

VP External Affairs Delouvrier answers that he thinks that VP Finance Sader's answer was accurate, as it is difficult to take accountability for things one is not aware of, but accountability is key to holding a position of authority. He tries to hold himself accountable to the best of his ability. The biggest thing he has learned is that teamwork is necessary for working in the Executive Committee, and thinks they need to do better.

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The Speaker reminds everyone to keep their







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Councillor Gurung motions to extend the President's speaking time by one (1) minute, seconded by VP Internal Affairs Paulin.

Seeing no opposition to this extension, the President's speaking time is extended by one (1) minute.

President Daryanani continues that he does not think a five (5)-month suspension is the exercise of care nor diligence of the Board. He asks for an extension of two (2) minutes.

Councillor Gurung motions for a two-minute extension of President Daryanani's speaking time, seconded by VP External Affairs Delouvrier.

Seeing no opposition to the extension, the President's speaking time is extended by two (2) minutes.

President Daryanani continues by stating that he is ceasing his participation in the meeting.

is a big problem, especially when criticism is being levied against a different group (i.e., being a person of colour who creates an unsafe environment for

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VP External Affairs Delouvrier calls a Point of Order on the basis that he has never seen or taken part in the drafting of a letter.

President Daryanani indicates that VP External Affairs Delouvrier has access to documents that the President does not have access to, and he does not empathise with VP External Affairs Delouvrier for being an international student, because their positions are completely different. Being an international student means that the Board of Directors should accommodate to them, to allow them to be on the Board of Directors and to pride on SSMU's mission and values. VP External Affairs Delouvrier was not suspended for five (5) months, and he knows the reasons for the President's suspension. He asks VP External Affairs Delouvrier if he can enlighten the General Assembly on the reasons for President Daryanani's suspension.

VP External Affairs Delouvrier calls a Point of Order, considering the tone of the President. He asks that the comments be retracted and an apology be provided.

The Speaker understands the tone may have been heated, but he cannot sustain this point of order, since it does not contravene any of the General Assembly standing rules, and he does not think it would constitute disrespectful behaviour or offensive body language.

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Councillor Dakdouki asks a Board member if an individual is suspended, whether they are informed of the reason.

VP Internal Affairs Paulin yields her time to VP Finance Sader.

VP Finance Sader responds that that is standard procedure, but in situations where suspensions occur, generally they go through their legal team, who writes the letter.

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Councillor Holton asks a follow-up question on VP External Affairs Delouvrier's question; if this letter contained any indication of the reasons for the suspension.

President Daryanani answers that he redirects this question to a Board member, who can read the letter, rather than paraphrasing it and keeping everyone in the dark. It will save everyone's time.

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VP Finance Sader states that he did not confirm nor deny the existence of a







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sent to employees. He thinks this question is better suited to the Board of Directors, as he does not have the time to present it this evening.

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Councillor Pérez Tiniacos asks, taking into account that the President has previously shared that he was suspended and knowing that the Board cannot legally show the GA any information but the President can, why he cannot show them this letter, knowing that the GA wants to see it to help with transparency.

President Daryanani answers that he understands that everyone is curious to find out what took place, and he knows questions have come up about the suspension at the Legislative Council. He asks if it is not a bit ironic that the Board has the information but the Board of Directors lied to everyone, saying he was on a leave of absence.







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Abigail Popple motions to end the question period ~~at the~~

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Councillor Infeld states that it is important to contextualise, in terms of the way the student body views SSMU. The Councillor does not wish to undermine anything that has been said, but believes the student body only sees a small part of SSMU, and it is important to remember that this is only one piece of SSMU, and there is much else that needs to be worked on.

Councillor Dakdouki states that in her experience as Clubs representative, she would like to discuss whether there is a better way to implement GSVP and Equity training. Many people will not listen to the presentations, which defeats the purpose. Club Executives don't like training, as they believe it does not pertain to their club. They ask if anyone has any solutions to this.

VP Finance Sader states that the point about training is excellent, and he thinks a lot of disconnections happen because SSMU is a student union as well as a company. It is an institution that has political bodies and permanent and casual staff. It is easy to forget the difference between the two (2), and Executives often work in the more corporate work environment, while Councillors work in the political environment. He does not have any solutions, but believes training would help a lot, since one of the major issues is bridging that divide. Speaking for himself, he is in the 13th hour of his workday, and his experience with SSMU is a lot more all-a lot as be fn

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The Speaker answers that it would need to be sent to the Legislative Council for full approval.

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Seeing no opposition and no abstention, the motion passes unanimously.

#### 11. Report of the Board of Directors

The Speaker states that some Executives have had to leave. They will be able to present them at a later date.

The Parliamentarian asks for a break so that they can arrange the screen-sharing of the reports.

VP Internal Affairs Paulin motions for a

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and is working on FACO, which is a  
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