

From the SSMU constitution: Duties of the FERC committee

Article 11: The duties of the Committee shall be:

- To research the business ethics of corporations who do business or will do business with the Society
- To inform the Executive Committee and Council of its findings
- To go over petitions from members of SSMU asking for a recommendation on the ethics of a corporation which does business with SSMU
- To go over business transactions of value greater than \$15,00 and pass a recommendation on such transactions within 15 days of being informed of theof said transactions
- To submit to each regular meeting of Council a report of all matters upon which the Committee has acted since the previous Council meeting.

Summary of the Ethical Business Policy (EBP)

Focuses on two standards:

1. **Labour**- Outlines policy statements for the following issues: 1)Forced Labour 2)Discrimination 3)Harassment or Abuse 4)Hours of Work 5)Freedom of Association and the Right to Bargain Collectively 6)Wages and Other Compensation 7)Pricing and Timelines 8)Health and Safety 9)Employment Relationship 10)Reproductive Rights 11)Child Labour 12)Home workers

2. **Environment**- Outlines policy statements for the following issues: 1) Location (preference given to locally based) 2) Materials 3) Pollution 4) Certification

Application:

The Ethical Business Policy recognizes that the complete application of its standards is near impossible, yet dedicates itself to conduct its affairs in light of the principles outlined.

Summary of FERC activities from 2003-2010

2003: -Conducted research on the ethical issues in the production of McGill apparel. Specifically investigated Gildan, Fruit of the Loom and Adidas-Solomon.

-Concluded that all three of the aforementioned businesses were in violation of local labour laws and recommended that alternatives be found.

2005: - Participated in the Student Coalition for Socially Responsible Purchasing and Investment (SCSRPI). Represented SSMU as founding member of the Inter-University SCSRPI with student associations from Concordia, UDeM and UQAM

- Voiced commitment to participate in initiatives such as the Sustainable Business Conference and the Sustainable Finance Series organized by the John Molson School of Business (Concordia University).

2008: -Provided guidelines to tenants of Room 103 (Caferama Space) on products, energy consumption, waste management and labour.

-Conducted research on the sale of seafood on campus.

-Proposed ruling calling for a general restriction on oil investments.

2010: -Conducted research on Tiki Ming, Cultures and Cafe Supreme and made recommendations on how the EBP can be more closely followed by these businesses.

-Provided summary of financial resources available to these business to help implement the EBP.

-Conducted research on the financial viability and environmental impact of recycling and composting at McGill.

-Considered ideas such as a Thrift Store and Food Bank on campus as part of a greater recycling initiative.