



Students' Society of McGill University
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Speakers
Bureau de Présidents du Conseil

Motion Regarding Policy on Negative Corporative Influence on Campus

Whereas, the SSMU's "Policy on Negative Corporate Influences on Campus," passed by a General Assembly on October 5, 2006 expired in October 5, 2011;

Whereas, the SSMU "commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice, and environmental protection" and "shall be mindful of the direct and indirect effects corporation, businesses and organizations and have on their social, political, economic, and environmental surroundings" (Constitution VII);

Whereas, corporate funding of research is actively solicited by the McGill administration, and affects both the types of research pursued as well as the outcome of that research;

Whereas, McGill engages in academic partnerships with some of the Canada's worst violators of social and environmental justice, such as Osisko Mining, who in 2009 established a 4.1 million dollar endowment in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences because, "During the last mineral exploration boom, we had a hard time finding geologists." (Campaign McGill website);

Whereas, McGill invests in companies capable of grave human rights and environmental abuses, such as Barrick Gold and Tar Sands giant Suncor, through its endowment funds;

Whereas, McGill's Board of Governors is composed of 25 members, 12 of whom are external corporate representatives;

Whereas, the Board of Governors Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR) is reactive rather than proactive, as it only meets when it is petitioned by the McGill community in regards to specific investments by McGill;

Whereas, the problem of negative corporate influence is not only unique to McGill, but is endemic to Canada's university system as a whole;

Resolved, that the SSMU work to build a university community governed by students, staff and faculty internal to the university community rather than by corporate agendas,

Resolved, that the SSMU declares its opposition to corporate influence over academic research and pedagogy, and to unethical investment of McGill money,

Resolved, that the SSMU actively promotes these priorities by taking action including but not limited to:

- Spur public discussion by preparing reports for students which document corporate-driven research at McGill as well as McGill's investment policies
- Develop an ethical purchasing policy which would apply to the SSMU building and to all SSMU activities



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- Empower students who seek to conduct independent research on the above issue by making available SSMU resources, and by assisting students in filing access to information requests
- Challenge the mandate of the McGill Board of Governors CAMSR (Committee to the Advise on Matters of Social Responsibilities), demanding that it meets regularly and that it produces an annual report on McGill's investments.

Moved by: Adam Winer (Clubs and Services Representative to Council)

Undersigned by:

Carol Fraser (Vice-President, Clubs and Services of SSMU)

Shyam Patel (Vice-President, Finance and Operations of SSMU)

Zhizhen Qin (Science Representative to Council)