LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RESOLUTION BOOK

Resolutions passed at the Legislative Council of the SSMU

Updated as of 2017-04-06
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2016-2017 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

Motion Regarding the Creation of Ad-Hoc Committees

Valid: September 15, 2016 – September 15, 2017

Creation of an Ad-Hoc Provincial Representation Committee

Whereas, the Constitution outlines the SSMU’s commitment to student representation: [1]

The Society shall act as the official voice of its Members and as a liaison between them and the University. The Society shall act in the best interests of its Members as a whole.

Whereas, the Vice-President (External) is mandated under the Constitution to “represent the Society and communicate positions and Policy taken by the Society to external bodies and agencies; to lobby federal, provincial, and municipal governments to further the objectives, goals and Policy of the Society, [and] to communicate to the Board of Directors relevant external issues which may significantly affect the Society;”[2]

Whereas, during the Winter 2016 referendum question regarding affiliation to the Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec (AVEQ), 24.5% of students abstained, or more than the difference between the “yes” and “no” votes;[3]

Whereas, the SSMU has a mandate to sit as an observer to the Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec (AVEQ);

Whereas, effective external representation requires an understanding of the impact of provincial policies on SSMU members;

Whereas, improved awareness and consultation around provincial political issues can better inform the SSMU’s external mandates and advocacy;

Be It Resolved That, an Ad-Hoc Provincial Representation Committee be created with the Terms of Reference outlined in Appendix A;
Moved By:

Ben Ger, President

David Aird Vice-President (External Affairs)


Appendix A - Ad-Hoc Provincial Representation Committee

1.1 OVERSIGHT. The Provincial Representation Committee (hereafter referred to as “the Committee”) shall be a Committee of the Legislative Council.

1.2 GENERAL. The Committee will build awareness, conduct consultation, and develop stances regarding the impact of provincial political issues on SSMU members.

1.3 RESPONSIBILITIES. The Committee shall:

   a) conduct research, consult students, and develop positions on provincial political issues that affect SSMU members;

   b) work with any provincial-level organization for which the SSMU has a mandate to participate in;

   c) organize McGill contingents to external political events happening in the Montreal and greater Quebec area;

   d) build programming and support mobilization around provincial political issues; and

   e) submit resolutions based on these activities for approval by the Legislative Council.

1.4 MEMBERSHIP. The Committee shall consist of:

   a) Political Campaigns Coordinator (Chair);

   b) the Vice-President (External Affairs);

   c) Councillors (2);

   d) Members-at-Large (5).

1.5 REPORTING. The Committee shall report to the Legislative Council at least once per term.
Motion Regarding the Creation of an Ad-Hoc Equitable Governance Reform Committee

Whereas, the SSMU’s Constitution1 and Equity Policy outline the Society’s commitment to enacting equitable practices in order to fight against systematic oppression through progressive leadership,2 as expressed in the Leadership pillar in the Constitution:

VII. The Students’ Society commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection. The Society shall be mindful of the direct and indirect effects corporations, businesses and organizations have on their social, political, economic, and environmental surroundings.

VIII. The Students’ Society commits itself to groups, programs and activities that are devoted to the well-being of a group disadvantaged because of irrelevant personal characteristics that include but are not limited to race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, gender identification, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or social class.”

Whereas, public elections, like unregulated hiring practices, provide a barrier to entry to leadership opportunities on campus for marginalized groups due to systemic oppression;

Whereas, over the summer an Alternative & Equitable Governance Researcher was hired to survey alternative governance and representation structures at other student associations;

Whereas, a research report has been produced outlining alternative practices and recommendations for the SSMU;

Be It Resolved, that an Ad-Hoc Equitable Governance Reform Committee be created with the Terms of Reference in Appendix A;

Be It Further Resolved, that the recruitment, formation and activities of this Committee be conducted in wide consultation with groups including, but not limited to, those listed in Appendix B.

Moved By:

Ben Ger, President
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Adam Templer (Clubs Representative)
William Cleveland (Senate Caucus)
Joshua Chin (Senate Caucus)
Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Standing Rules for the 2016-2017 Legislative Council

Whereas, Robert’s Rules of Order provide a general framework for formal, efficient group meetings by balancing the rights of members while facilitating democratic debate and decision-making.

Whereas, standing rules are mechanisms by which Robert’s Rules can be fine-tuned for any given group, such as the SSMU Legislative Council;

Whereas, the Legislative Council adopts the following Standing Rules (Appendix 1) to maximize the efficiency and accessibility of council meetings.

Moved by:

Ben Ger, President
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Joshua Chin (Senate caucus)
Motion Regarding Amendments to the Committee Terms of Reference

Whereas, previous and current Executives and Committee Members provided feedback at the end of last year and throughout the summer on how to improve some of the Committees currently housed in the Committee Terms of Reference;

Whereas, there were a number of concerns raised at Council last year about the effectiveness and efficiency of a number of Committees, in particular the Accountability Committee;

Whereas, these amendments exist to address some of those concerns and feedback, as well as make some smaller modifications to Committee membership;

Be It Resolved That, the following amendments to the Committee Terms of Reference be adopted.

Moved By:

Ben Ger, President
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Joshua Chiri (Senate Caucus)
Khali-Ann Douglas (Services Representative)
Richard Mansdoerfer (Engineering Representative)
Motion Regarding the Future of the Accountable Leadership Policy

Whereas, the SSMU Accountable Leadership Policy (Appendix A) is valid for a five-year term from December 5, 2013 through December 5, 2018;

Whereas, this Policy includes provisions related to Executive performance reviews, Executive, attendance, member-at-large restrictions, and the Accountability Committee;

Whereas, this information already is, or may easily be, contained in other documents such as the Internal Regulations of Governance and the Committee Terms of Reference;

Whereas, the provisions for attendance, hours logging, and pay docking all pose logistical or legal issues as well as accessibility concerns for Executive positions;

Whereas, adherence to the Society’s contracts, governance documents, and other mandates is a de facto expectation of elected Executive positions;

Whereas, the Accountability Committee has historically suffered from either an ill-defined or overly ambitious mandate;

Be It Resolved That, the current Accountable Leadership Policy be repealed.

Be It Further Resolved That, the Accountability Committee continue to be responsible for ensuring the accountability of elected Executives, Councillors and Senators to their formal mandates, governance responsibilities, and student concerns;

Be It Further Resolved That, this be achieved through means such as reviewing Executive mandates and conducting semesterly performance evaluations, as defined in the Committee Terms of Reference;

Be It Further Resolved That, the President would add in restrictions for Councillors holding Member-at-Large seats on committees under Article 3 (Councillors) of the Internal Regulations of Governance-07.

Moved By:

Kahlil-Ann Douglas, Services Representative
Ben Ger, President
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Adam Templer (Clubs Representative)
Joshua Chin (Senate Caucus)
Buland Junejo (Clubs Representative)
OCTOBER 13, 2016

Motion Regarding Support For Amuse Collective Bargaining

Whereas, the SSMU has a commitment to leadership in matters concerning the well-being of marginalized groups, as is exemplified by the SSMU Equity Policy, as well as is stated in the Preamble of the SSMU Constitution:

Whereas, the Association of McGill University Support Employees (AMUSE) is currently engaged in the bargaining process for a new collective agreement for its members;1

Whereas, AMUSE members include over 1500 casual and temporary non-academic workers at McGill, approximately 85% of whom are students;

Whereas, over 50% of AMUSE members work for $10.85, which is 10 cents above minimum wage;

Whereas, independent research has found that the average living wage in Montreal is $15.38/hour;2

Whereas, no AMUSE members receive basic benefits, dental coverage, or parental leave;

Whereas, the number of AMUSE members has been increasing as part of ongoing labour casualization trends at McGill;3

Whereas, many SSMU members are also members of AMUSE and benefit by their work

Be It Resolved That the SSMU endorse the AMUSE bargaining priorities as outlined in Appendix A;

Be It Further Resolved That the SSMU publish a statement in support of these priorities on its website, listserv, and social media channels.

Moved by:

Romita Sur, Law Representative
Kahlil-Ann Douglas, Services Representative
David Aird, Vice-President (External Affairs)
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Igor Sadikov, Arts Representative


Appendix A: AMUSE Unit A Bargaining Priorities, October 2016

1. Equal Treatment: Respect for casual workers, including hiring priority for jobs you’ve already done.

2. Wages that Reflect Our Work: Accurate job descriptions, with a paycheque to match.


5. Work Study that Works for Us: A better posting system and more student input for Work Study jobs.
Motion Regarding Electing Student Senators from the Faculty of Medicine and the School Of Nursing

Whereas, there are 741 students enrolled in the undergraduate medical program (MDCM) and 730 students enrolled in an undergraduate nursing program (BSc(N) or BNI) at McGill University, as of October 27, 2015;[1]

Whereas, the positions of Student Senators representing the Faculty of Medicine ("Medicine Senator") and the School of Nursing ("Nursing Senator") have remained uncontested or vacant over recent years;

Whereas, elections for the Medicine Senator and the Nursing Senator currently takes place under the auspices of the Society, via Elections SSMU;

Whereas, the Medical Students' Society (MSS) and the Nursing Undergraduate Society (NUS) independently organizes and coordinates the election of their Council, under the supervision of a Chief Returning Officer (CRO) [2] or a Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) [3], respectively;

Whereas, concurrently holding the election of Student Senators alongside the election of faculty-level association council members may increase the number of interested candidates and voter turnout to the Senator position;

Whereas, Article 8.1 (a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy allows for the election of Student Senators under the auspices of their respective faculty associations; [4]

Be it Resolved That, elections for the Medicine Senator and Nursing Senator positions take place under the auspices of the MSS and NUS, respectively, during the Winter 2017 term for the 2017-2018 academic year, in accordance with Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy.

Moved by:

Joshua Chin, Senate Caucus Representative
Mckenzie Gingrich-Hadley, Nursing Representative
Jake Prillo, Medicine Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)


Motion Regarding the Amendment of the Internal Regulations of Governance

Whereas, the Legislative Council approved the “Motion Regarding the Future of the Accountable Leadership Policy” on September 15, 2016;

Whereas, this Motion resolved that “restrictions for Councillors holding Member-at-Large seats on committees be recommended for addition under Article 3 (Councillors) of the Internal Regulations of Governance-07”;

Whereas, these restrictions help to ensure that students-at-large are represented on Committees of the Legislative Council;

Be It Resolved That, the following articles be added under Article 3 (Councillors) of the Internal Regulations of Governance-07 [1]:

3.9. Committee Members-at-Large. Councillors may sit on Committees of the Legislative Council as Members-at-Large if:

(a) the process of Councillor committee allocations has already taken place; (b) the Member-at-Large seat is left vacant following the general recruitment process; (c) the seat does not count towards the minimum Councillor committee requirement;

Moved By:

Rachel Medvedev, PTOT Representative
McKenzie Gingrich-Hadley, Nursing Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)

OCTOBER 20, 2016

Motion Regarding the Free Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy

Whereas, the SSMU has a commitment to leadership in matters concerning the wellbeing of marginalized groups, as is exemplified by the SSMU Equity Policy, as well as is stated in the Preamble of the SSMU Constitution:

The Students’ Society commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection. The Society shall be mindful of the direct and indirect effects corporations, businesses and organizations have on their social, political, economic, and environmental surroundings. The Students’ Society commits itself to groups, programs and activities that are devoted to the wellbeing of a group disadvantaged because of irrelevant personal characteristics that include but are not limited to race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, gender identification, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or social class.

Whereas, women and non-male people continue to face systemic inequality and discrimination in Canada, including the majority of gender-based violence and wage disparities;

Whereas, personal care products marketed towards women are often inflated in price, as well as labeled a Luxury, compared to those marketed towards men;

Whereas, sexual health products such as condoms are provided free or at subsidized rates at many locations on McGill campus while necessary personal health products, such as tampons, are not;

Be It Resolved That, the following Free Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy be adopted by the Legislative Council on October 20th, 2016 and remain in effect until October 20th, 2021.

Moved By:

Isabella Anderson, Arts Representative
McKenzie Gingrich-Hadley, Nursing Representative
Tuviere Okone, Environment Representative
Buland Junejo, Clubs Representative
Ben Ger, President
Elaine Patterson, Vice-President (Student Life)
Free Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy

Valid: October 13th 2016 – October 13th 2021

1. Scope

This Policy shall apply to Directors, Councillors, Executive Officers, Senators, committee members, staff (employees), and all others involved in Society decision-making processes for the duration of their formal involvement with the Society. It shall be used as a guide for decision-making and a plan for taking action on providing menstrual hygiene products to those who need it.

2. Definitions

All terms used in the Free Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy shall adopt the same definitions as those given to similar terms previously defined in the Constitution. In addition, the following terms shall be defined herein:

2.1 Sex: refers to the social, legal, and medical classification assigned to one’s body at birth. Sex, unlike Gender, is not self-defined, though it can be changed.

2.2 Gender: a set of cultural identities, expressions and roles, codified as feminine or masculine, that are assigned to people based upon the interpretation of their bodies, and more specifically, their sexual and reproductive anatomy. Since gender is a social construct, it is possible to reject or modify the assignment made, and develop something that feels truer and just to oneself.1

2.3 Gender Non Conforming (GNC): a descriptive term and/or identity of a person who has a gender identity and/or expression that does not conform to the traditional expectations of the gender they were assigned at birth. People who identify as “gender nonconforming” or “gender variant” may or may not also identify as “transgender.”

2.4 Gender Binary: the Gender Binary, also referred to as “gender binarism” or “binarism”, is the incorrect classification of sex and gender into two distinct, opposite and disconnected forms of masculine and feminine.

2.5 Cisgender: Cisgender refers to a person whose gender identity coincides with their sex at birth.

2.6 Transitioning: the process in which a person goes from living and identifying as one gender to living and identifying as another, GNC or non-binary. Transition is a process that is different for everyone, and it may or may not involve social, legal, physical or medical changes. There is no one step or set of steps that an individual must undergo in order to have their gender identity affirmed and respected.

2.7 Transgender: encompassing term of many gender identities, some binary and some non-binary, of those who do not identify or exclusively identify with their sex assigned at birth. The term transgender is not indicative of gender expression, sexual orientation, hormonal makeup, physical anatomy, or how one is perceived in daily life.

2.8 Menstrual Hygiene Products: any products used during a person’s menstrual cycle in order to assist them with the experiences and/or difficulties of menstruation. Persons may choose in some cases...
to not use these products at all, a decision that is entirely theirs to make and one that should be respected as such. For the sake of this policy, such products may include, and shall be defined as, but are not limited to:

2.8.1 Tampons: an unscented and hypoallergenic plug of soft material inserted into the vagina, using a plastic applicator, to absorb menstrual blood, which must come in a variety of sizes.

2.8.2 Sanitary Pads: an absorbent item worn by a person who is menstruating.

2.10 Pink Tax: the Pink Tax refers to the discrimination against non-male defining people that manifests itself in an increased expense on products typically labelled, explicitly or implicitly, “for women.”

2.11 Economies of Scale: a proportionate saving in costs gained by an increased level of production and purchasing.

2.12 Luxury Goods: products which are not necessary but which tend to make life more pleasant for the consumer.

2.13 Necessary Goods: goods or service whose consumption is essential to human survival, or which is considered indispensable for maintaining a certain minimum standard-of-living.

3. Background

3.1 History the SSMU recognizes that, prior and throughout the drafting of this legislation, there exist programs that seek to combat some of the financial burden on any person or peoples that experience menstruation. Both the Union for Gender Empowerment (UGE) and the Shag Shop provide tampons to students on a pay-what-you-can basis. This policy seeks to only support and build upon the work done by front-line community members who have fought and continue to fight for gender and sex equity and equality.

3.2 Price Discrimination as shown in the study From Cradle to Cane: The Cost of Being a Female Consumer, a comprehensive study that looked into “gender pricing of goods in New York City across multiple industries,” on average women pay 7% more for all goods they consume. The study showed that in some areas, in particular personal care products, women can also pay, on average, 13% more, and products labeled “for women” in general costing more than others 42% of the time. This fact, in combination with the recognition that people that experience menstruation are generally economically vulnerable due to patriarchal hiring practices, amongst other sexist work-based issues associated with the systemic oppression in money-making industries, compounds in terms of relative cost.

3.2.1 Luxury Goods and Gender reproductive health is widely promoted on the McGill campus in various existing capacities: free condoms can be found at large-scale events, in residence halls, and elsewhere on campus. As well, the McGill Health Clinic offers STI testing as one of its many services to students. Menstrual hygiene products, however, are sparsely found on campus. This dichotomy presents an unnecessary and unacceptable fissure between reproductive health and menstrual health given that both of which are related to one’s reproductive organs. As well, while commonplace necessary goods, such as toilet paper, are supplied in public washrooms for free, menstrual hygiene products maintain a cost and can be labeled as “Luxury”; a clear marker of the discrimination faced against products deemed “feminine” in nature. One study compared the cost of “Pads for [Elderly] Women” with equivalent “Guards
for [Elderly] Men” and found that in some cases packages of product costed the same amount for 25% less in pad count.  

3.3 Product Gendering the act of gendering a product, in which a Gender identity is attached to the packaging and marketing of a good, an act that usually subscribes to pricing discrimination in favor of men and perpetuates/creates some of the gender based segmentation and assumptions we have present today. The SSMU has taken similar prior stances against gendering of products through its section 2.7 of the Equity Policy, in which the SSMU established its commitment to “gender-neutral language in its documents, in all electronic and written correspondence from SSMU addresses, and in the workplace.

3.4 Menstrual Stigmatization and Shaming studies show that 62% of women who were asked the question, “Do you feel comfortable talking about menstruation with males?” in a survey answered in negative. As well, there are documented occurrences of people in prominent positions being shamed for getting their period in public and not having any menstrual hygiene products. Students who get their period unexpectedly on campus may be paying for their own education and lifestyle. In an emergency situation, some may be faced with the decision to purchase either menstrual hygiene products and not eat lunch that day or purchase food and experience mental health related negative impacts. One study showed that 35% of women caught in public without the supplies they needed when they unexpectedly started their period would feel panicked, and 43% would feel anxious/stressed.

4. Product Subsidizing

4.1 Fee The Vice-President Finance shall, in consultation with the President, draft a Referendum Question to be considered by the Legislative Council with the intent that the SSMU establish a Free Menstrual Hygiene Products Fee mandating the Society to purchase and freely distribute Tampons and Sanitary Pads, of various width and thicknesses, in order to leverage Economies of Scale to reduce the overall cost through buying in bulk.

4.1.1 Renewal The SSMU will continue to bring this fee back to the membership for renewal, at the initially passed price per student or higher, until McGill, or the Municipal, Provincial or Federal Government recognize that these products must be classified as Necessary Goods and pass a subsidy program to eliminate their cost and/or supply them publicly.

4.1.2 Surplus Fund If, at any point, the SSMU finds itself running a surplus with the funds collected, those surplus moneys collected will be pooled into a fund (to be referred as the Health and Hygiene Products Fund) to be reserved for the purchasing of alternative health and hygiene products, including, but not limited to, Diva Cups.

5. Distribution

5.1 Provision of Products to Students The SSMU shall seek to provide menstrual hygiene products through as many prominent access points on campus as are outlined, but not limited to, herein.

5.1.2 SSMU Building The Vice-President Operations shall establish dispensaries at key access points in the building, namely in, but not limited to, the two gender neutral washrooms in the SSMU Building. The Vice-President Operations will also create and maintain clear signs on the first and fourth floor indicating where these products are, and shall coordinate with the VP External’s annual awareness campaign (outlined below) to promote the existence of these free products in the building.
5.1.3 **McGill Campus The Vice-President Internal** will be responsible for coordinating with Healthy McGill to distribute these products as widely as possible through their kiosks on campus. As well, the VP Internal shall contact all other groups they feel would interested in working with the SSMU on providing free menstrual hygiene products, in order to promote the creation of more access points across campus into this Policy.

6. **Advocacy**

6.1 **Expansion of Policy** The SSMU will advocate for similar policies to be adopted at all higher levels of governance, including, but not limited to, at McGill, Municipal and Provincial Government.

6.1.1 **Campus-Wide Advocacy** The Vice-President University Affairs shall advocate for the McGill administration to adopt a similar Policy, as well as establish similar dispensaries to those outlined in section 4.1.2, through any official capacity they have, such as, but not limited to, Senate and its Committees.

The President shall advocate the McGill administration, as well as faculty associations, to adopt similar policies and establish dispensaries, through any official capacity they have, such as, but not limited to, Senate and its Committees, the Board of Governors and its Committees, and the Presidents Round Table.

6.1.2 **External Advocacy** The VP External and the President shall both be tasked with the joint responsibility of advocating for the expansion of those adopting this, or similar, policies at the Municipal, Provincial or Federal level, through media relations, provincial associations, as well as personal outreach to the city of Montreal by the VP External in specific.

7. **Education**

7.1 **Awareness** The SSMU recognizes that many McGill and Quebec students are uninformed on issues of economic discrimination against individuals who experience menstruation, and will actively participate in local communities to increase awareness.

7.1.2 **Gendering of Products** The SSMU recognizes and denounces any gendering of products, which further contributes to societal pressures associated with Gender, that constantly negatively impacts and pressures people to fit a Gender mold that is deemed “normal.”

7.2 **Annual Awareness Campaign** The VP External shall put on, in coordination with the Office of the VP Operations, an annual awareness campaign that aims to both explain the Pink Tax and educate people about how it negatively effects and discriminates against GNC, Transitioning, Transgender, and Cisgender people that experience menstruation. The predominant role of the VP Operations in this is outlined in 4.1.2, but they will also act as a general support to the VP External throughout the campaign.


Motion Regarding Free Menstrual Hygiene Products Fee and Health and Hygiene Products Fund Referenda Question

Whereas, there exists a systemic culture of sexism in Canadian society that, in one of its many ways, manifests itself financially through the higher pricing of products labeled “feminine”;

Whereas, menstrual hygiene products in Canada are still seen as Luxury Goods, while items that can be used by any Gender, such as toilet paper, are categorized as Necessary Goods and as such can be found supplied for free;

Whereas, though the Canadian government has taken steps to address this issue by eliminating any taxation of feminine hygiene products, this step does not adequately do enough towards eliminating financial discrimination towards those who experience menstruation;

Whereas, the SSMU has a commitment to serving its Members and to leadership in matters concerning the wellbeing of marginalized groups;

Whereas, through the collection of fees the SSMU can purchase menstrual hygiene products in bulk and effectively eliminate the entire cost of those products to its Members that would require them during their time at McGill as a Member of the SSMU;

Whereas, the approval of this fee will also entail the creation of a Health and Hygiene Products Fund, which will be directly funded by any surplus monies, to eventually be dispersed for the purchasing of alternative menstrual hygiene products, to be supplied at a subsidized rate or free of charge;

Be It Resolved That, that the SSMU Legislative Council approve the following question for the Fall 2016 referendum period:

“Do you support the creation of a non-opt-outable fee of $0.90 per semester for undergraduate students, with the intention of freely supplying and distributing menstrual hygiene products, including, but not necessarily limited to, tampons and pads, to all its Members across campus, to be put in effect from the start of the semester in Winter 2017 until Fall 2020 (inclusive)?”

Moved By:

Tuviere Okome, Environment Representative
Mckenzie Gingrich-Hadley, Nursing Representative
Igor Sadikov, Arts Representative
Elaine Patterson, Vice-President (Student Life)
Ben Ger, President


Motion of Support Regarding Radio CKUT’s Existence Referendum

Whereas, Radio CKUT is an Independent Student Group of the SSMU existing on McGill’s downtown campus that has existed since 1988 whose fee will be expiring at the end of the Fall 2016 semester;

Whereas, the SSMU’s Constitution mandates the SSMU to:

“Support the student groups that make up civic life in the McGill community, while providing services to strengthen the educational, cultural, environmental, political and social conditions of [their] membership;” [i]

Whereas, CKUT engages with McGill Students and the Montreal community so as to promote these aforementioned ends;

Whereas, the SSMU has a policy to support clubs and services, and, more broadly, student life on campus; [iv]

Be It Resolved, that the SSMU endorse a “Yes” vote to the CKUT existence referendum questions in the Fall 2016 CKUT Referendum period.

Moved by:

Elaine Patterson, Vice-President (Student Life)
Buland Junejo, Clubs Representative
Igor Sadikov (Arts Representative)
Maria Thomas (Arts Representative)
David Aird, Vice-President (External)

Motion Regarding Midnight Kitchen Existence Referendum Question

Whereas, the Midnight Kitchen (MK) is a volunteer and worker-run organization that provides free or by donation meal services for McGill student groups and community groups and individuals in Montreal basis;

Whereas, MK strives to make food more accessible by accommodating dietary restrictions, including allergies, gluten intolerance, veganism, and religious needs;

Whereas, MK offers discretionary funding to projects, initiatives and events in line with our mandate that do not have easy access to funding sources;

Whereas, MK Fee ($1.25) was initially established in the Winter 2007 Referenda Period;
Whereas, in both Winter 2011 and Fall 2013, MK passed referenda to increase their fee levy in order to account for the growth in expenditures and goals associated with the overall growth of their service’s prevalence on campus;

Whereas, the latter of which questions passed with 72.5% in favour, resulting in an increase from a fee of $2.25 per student per term to their current fee of $3.25 per student per term;

Whereas, MK’s fee expires this Fall 2016 and without it they will not be able to sustain their operations;

Be It Resolved That, the SSMU Legislative Council approve the following questions for the Fall 2016 referendum period:

(Part 1) “Do you support the student levy of $3.35 per semester for the Midnight Kitchen, payable and opt-outable by members of the Students’ Society of McGill University (SSMU), in effect from winter 2017 until fall 2021 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal, with the understanding that a majority “no” vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate fee-levy funding to Midnight Kitchen?”

(Part 2) “Do you further support that Midnight Kitchen continue to be able to offer up to 10% of its fee budget in discretionary funding to projects, initiatives and events in line with its mandate that do not have easy access to funding sources?”

Moved By:

Igor Sadikov, Arts Representative
Kahli-Ann Douglas, Services Representative
Elaine Patterson, Vice-President (Student Life)
Motion Regarding Creation of a Musicians Collective Fee Referendum Question

Whereas, the Musicians Collective (MC) is a volunteer-run organization that provides a public “jam space” within the SSMU building for all registered McGill students to book free of charge [1];

Whereas, the MC also provides a network of musicians to facilitate music making at all levels, and coordinates and promotes performance opportunities for bands and ensembles [1];

Whereas, the MC has been subsidized from the SSMU general operating budget [2] since its designation as a service since 2012 [3];

Whereas, a direct subsidy out of SSMU operating budget is an unsustainable source of funding in light of recent budgetary restrictions and reductions in capacity of the SSMU accounting department;

Be It Resolved That, the SSMU Legislative Council approve the following question for the Fall 2016 referendum period:

“Do you agree to the creation of an opt-outable Musicians Collective Fee of $0.10 per student per semester, payable by all undergraduate students who are members of the Students’ Society of McGill University (SSMU), starting Winter 2017 and ending in Fall 2021 (inclusive) at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal?”

Moved By:

Baland Junejo, Clubs Representative
Kahlia-Douglas, Services Representative
Noah Century, Music Representative
Elaine Patterson, Vice-President (Student Life)
Niall Carolan, Vice-President (Finance)

NOVEMBER 3, 2016

Motion Regarding the Creation of an Ad-Hoc Democratic Governance Review Committee

Whereas, through a referendum passed in April 2016, the SSMU increased the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, modified the composition of the Board of Directors by creating seats for members at large, established committees of the Board of Directors, and separated the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and the Legislative Council; [1]

Whereas, the Board of Directors is legally the highest governing body of the SSMU, but its powers are not clearly limited by the Constitution and the Internal Regulations;

Whereas, there is no requirement that the Board of Directors report to the Legislative Council or to the General Assembly, that the meetings of the Board of Directors be held at publicly available regular times, nor that the minutes of its meetings be public; [2]

Whereas, the democratic legitimacy of the Board of Directors depends on the transparency of its procedures and decisions;

Whereas, following concerns raised by both SSMU councilors and by the general membership, the 2015-2016 Ad-Hoc Electoral Reform Committee recommended in its final report that an ad-hoc committee be created in Fall 2016 to review the procedures of the General Assembly; [3]

Be It Resolved, that an Ad-Hoc Democratic Governance Review Committee be created with the terms of reference specified in Appendix A;

Be It Further Resolved, that the following Councillors be appointed to this Committee:

- Igor Sadikov
- Kevin Zhou
- Olivia Shi
- Adam Templer
Moved by:

Igor Sadikov, Arts Representative
Isabella Anderson, Arts Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Ben Ger (President)
Joshua Chin (Senate Caucus Representative)


Motion Regarding Support for QPIRG-McGill’s Existence Referendum

Whereas, the Quebec Public Interest Research Group – McGill (QPIRG) is an Independent Student Group of the SSMU that was incorporated in 1989 and whose mandate is to conduct research, education, and action at McGill and in the Montreal community on environmental and social justice issues;

Whereas, QPIRG connects campus and community through annual event series for McGill students and numerous working groups, and provides resources and funding to students and community groups;

Whereas, QPIRG’s fee levy must be renewed every five years and is expiring in Winter 2017;

Whereas, the SSMU’s Constitution mandates the SSMU to:

“Support the student groups that make up civic life in the McGill community, while providing services to strengthen the educational, cultural, environmental, political and social conditions of [their] membership”; [1]

Whereas, according to the SSMU Policy and Plan Book, “the SSMU's primary obligation shall be to support affiliated student groups”; [2]

Be It Resolved, that the SSMU endorse a “Yes” vote to the QPIRG existence referendum in the Fall 2016 QPIRG Referendum period;

Be It Resolved, that the SSMU publicize this endorsement through its website, listserv, and social media.

Moved by:

Romita Sur, Law Representative
Caitlin Mehrotra, Science Representative
Maria Thomas, Arts Representative


Motion Re: Electing Student Senators from the Faculty of Engineering

Whereas, there is a larger turnout of engineering students in the Engineering Undergraduate Society Executive Elections (Total Votes: 896)[1a] than the SSMU Elections (Total Votes: 568)[1b] for the 2016-2017 academic year,

Whereas, the Engineering Representatives to SSMU are elected in EUS Elections as described above,

Whereas, the position of (Engineering) Senator has been uncontested from the Faculty of Engineering since the SSMU Elections of 2014-2015;

Whereas, concurrently holding the election of the Engineering Senator alongside the election of faculty-level association council members may increase the number of interested candidates and voter turnout to the Senator position;

Whereas, Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy allows for the election of Student Senators under the auspices of their respective faculty associations [2];

Be It Resolved That, elections for the Engineering Senator position take place under the auspices of the Engineering Undergraduate Society during the Winter 2017 term for the 2017-2018 academic year, in accordance with Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy.

Moved by:

TreMansdoerfer, Engineering Representative
Tristan Renondin, Engineering Representative
William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Joshua Chin (Senate Caucus Representative)


https://docs.google.com/a/mcgill.ca/document/d/1UqvW4YFnrlHo-kl4TSyg5cSKKMvc9BTGb9W8jZlXc/edit?usp=sharing

NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Motion Regarding SSMU Support for Cost-Free Birth Control Coverage

Presented by: McGill Students for the New Democratic Party (NDP McGill)

Whereas, women’s ability to control childbirth is an essential part of their full and equal participation in public life [1];

Whereas, among heterosexually active Canadians not desiring conception, 15% report no contraceptive use at all, and withdrawal remains the third-most-popular contraceptive method in use [2];

Whereas, non-Quebec McGill students currently do not receive full reimbursement for prescription birth control under the SSMU’s group health insurance [3];

Be it Resolved, that the SSMU publicly support cost-free access to prescription birth control for all;

Be it Further Resolved, that the Health and Dental Review Committee of the SSMU review the SSMU health insurance plan and negotiate with its student health insurance provider to ensure that prescription birth control is available to all SSMU members as soon as possible;

Be it Further Resolved, that the Health and Dental Review Committee of the SSMU review the international health insurance plan and advocate that McGill University negotiate with its insurance provider to ensure that prescription birth control is available to all international students as soon as possible;

Be it Further Resolved, that the Health and Dental Review Committee report publicly to the Legislative Council or to the General Assembly by the end of the academic year with an update on the progress of adding cost-free prescription birth control to the SSMU student health insurance plan for non-Quebec students, as well as to the McGill health insurance plan for international students.

Supported by:

David Aird, VP External
Igor Sadikov, Arts Representative
Tuviere Okome, Environment Representative
Isabella Anderson, Arts Representative
William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative Romita Sur, Law Representative


DECEMBER 1, 2016

Motion Regarding Global Access to Medicines Policy

Whereas, the SSMU is committed to “demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights [and] social justice,” [1] as well as to social sustainability; [2]

Whereas, pharmaceutical patenting in developing countries restricts generic competition and raises prices of drugs that hinders access to life-saving medicines; [3]

Whereas, drug applications developed by research universities in developed countries contribute to the majority of research and development of medicines, and licensing decisions at the university level of these drug applications substantially impact the accessibility of these medicines in developing countries; [4]

Whereas, humanitarian or global access licenses implemented by research universities in developed countries can substantially increase the accessibility of medicines in developing countries by, for example, allowing generic production of final products for exclusive distribution in low- and middle-income countries to realize economies of scale and market competition by locating the most efficient manufacturer and distributor; [5]

Whereas, the case outlined above was empirically proven in 2001 when Yale University and Bristol-Myers Squibb agreed to allow the HIV drug stavudine to be available generically in South Africa, which resulted in a 96% price reduction and a substantial increase in accessibility to South Africans at no cost to the university in terms of licensing revenues; [6]

Whereas, the University of British Columbia, Emory University, University of Edinburgh, University of Oxford, University of Washington, Boston University, Harvard University, Yale University, the University College of London, and 65 other universities and research institutions have adopted similar licensing approaches with benefits of similar magnitude [7] at no loss of licensing revenues; [8]

Whereas, the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM), Boston University, Brown University, Harvard University, Oregon Health & Science University, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University have adopted a humanitarian or global access licensing framework in their licenses to the private sector per the Statement of Principles and Strategies for the Equitable Dissemination of Medical Technologies (SPS) [9] specific to licenses as follows:
In negotiations with potential licensees, we will make vigorous efforts to develop creative and effective licensing strategies that help to promote global access to health-related technologies by apprising potential commercial partners of the institution’s commitment to contribute to the health and well-being of populations throughout the developing world, and by cultivating productive relationships with companies that share our values and are able and willing to advance the University’s global health mission.

Our intellectual property should not become a barrier to essential health-related technologies needed by patients in developing countries. In cases where the University can fully preclude intellectual property barriers to generic provision by not patenting in developing countries, or by filing and abandoning patents, we will pursue these strategies. Early publication and wide dissemination of results will be encouraged to reduce opportunities for interfering patents.

In those cases where we pursue patent rights, we will negotiate license agreements that draw upon a variety of strategies that seek to align incentives among all stakeholders to promote broad access to health-related technologies in developing countries including, but not limited to, financial incentives to licensees, reserved or ‘march-in’ rights, mandatory sublicenses or non-assert provisions, affirmative obligations of diligence, with license reduction, conversion, or termination as the penalty for default, or tiered- or other appropriate pricing on a humanitarian basis (e.g., subsidized, at-cost, or no-cost).

We will strive to preserve its future rights to negotiate effective global access terms through implementation of such measures as notice requirements coupled with ‘agreements to agree.’

We will work to develop and apply meaningful metrics to evaluate the success of its efforts to facilitate global access and support continued innovation with particular relevance to global health.

We will revisit these principles on a biennial basis to ensure that they reflect currently understood best practices.

Whereas, universities who have adopted these strategies have reported a financial gain from donations and additional funding by organizations in support of global social responsibility; [10]

Whereas, many pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies have acknowledged sublicensing to generic producers as a socially responsible and financially viable method to increase accessibility of
medicines in developing world markets, including Gilead Science, Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKlein, and Alnylam Pharmaceuticals;[11]

Whereas, McGill University, as a publicly funded research institution, is the leading Canadian university in producing biotechnology patents, some of which may apply in developing country contexts;[12]

Whereas, the mission statement of McGill University as an academic institution includes the “advancement of learning and the creation and dissemination of knowledge [...] by providing service to society,” hence mandating a contribution to public welfare;[13]

Whereas, McGill University has not implemented a humanitarian or global access licensing framework for technology transfers to the private sector specific to global health in its Policy on Intellectual Property to date;[14]

Be It Resolved, that the SSMU adopt the following policy regarding global access to medicines, to expire on November 7, 2021:

The SSMU supports increased access to medicines throughout the world as a public good and a human right.

The SSMU calls for the implementation of a humanitarian or global access licensing framework for health-related technology transfers to the private sector at McGill University.

Be It Further Resolved, that the SSMU advocate for the implementation of a humanitarian or global access licensing framework for health-related technology transfer to the private sector through the University Senate and the appropriate University Committees, as per the goals outlined in the Statement of Principles and Strategies for the Equitable Dissemination of Medical Technologies.

Moved by:

McGill Students’ Chapter of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines

Igor Sadikov, Arts Representative
William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative
Joshua Chin, Senate Caucus Representative
Noah Century, Music Representative
Caitlin Mehrotra, Science Representative
Jake Prillo, Medicine Representative
1. Preamble, Leadership, SSMU Constitution

2. Introduction, Vision and Understanding Sustainability, Social, SSMU Sustainability Policy


4. uarem.org


7. Sampat (2009)

8. Chen (2010)

9. Statement of Principles and Strategies for the Equitable Dissemination of Medical Technologies


11. Chen (2010)


13. McGill University Mission Statement

Motion Regarding the Election of Student Senators from the Faculty of Arts

Whereas, concurrently holding the election of the Arts Senator alongside the election of the Arts Undergraduate Society (AUS) executives may increase the number of interested candidates and voter turnout to the Senator position;

Whereas, Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy allows for the election of Student Senators under the auspices of their respective faculty associations;

Be it resolved that elections for the Arts Senator positions take place under the auspices of the AUS, respectively, during the Winter 2017 term for the 2017-2018 academic year, in accordance with Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy.

Moved by:

Maria Thomas, Arts Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative
Motion Regarding the Election of Student Senators from the Faculty of Education

Whereas, elections for the Education Senator currently take place under the auspices of the Student Society of McGill University (SSMU);

Whereas, there was a larger turnout of Faculty of Education students in the Education Undergraduate Society (EdUS) Elections (Total Votes:179) [1] than the SSMU Elections (Total Votes:77) [2] for the 2016-2017 academic year;

Whereas, concurrently holding the election of Student Senators alongside the election of faculty-level association council members may increase the number of interested candidates and voter turnout to the Senator position;

Whereas, Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy allows for the election of Student Senators under the auspices of their respective faculty associations [3];

Be it resolved that, elections for the Education Senator position take place under the auspices of the EdUS during the Winter 2017 term for the 2017-2018 academic year, in accordance with Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy.

Moved by:

Marco Sgro, Education Representative
1. Appendix A.

2. SSMU 2016-2017 Election Results


Appendix A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turnout Report</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Turnout: 179 (11.5%) of 1554 electors voted in this election.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Turnout: 46.8 electors voted per day.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Turnout Chart</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segment 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segment 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Turnout Chart (179 electors voted)
Motion Regarding the Election of Student Senators from the Faculty of Law

Whereas, concurrently holding the election of the Law Senator alongside the election of the Law Students’ Association (LSA) executives may increase the number of interested candidates and voter turnout to the Senator position;

Whereas, Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy allows for the election of Student Senators under the auspices of their respective faculty associations;

Be it resolved that, elections for the Law Senator position take place under the auspices of the LSA, respectively, during the Winter 2017 term for the 2017-2018 academic year, in accordance with Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy.

Moved by:

Romita Sur, Law Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative
Motion Regarding the Election of Student Senators from the Faculty of Management

Whereas, the position of MUS Senator has been traditionally elected through yearly MUS elections,

Whereas, concurrently holding the election of the Management Senator alongside the election of Faculty-level association board members may increase the number of interested candidates and voter turnout to the Senator position;

Whereas, Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy allows for the election of Student Senators under the auspices of their respective faculty associations;

Whereas, the MUS Council endorses this motion to be presented at SSMU Legislative Council;

Be it resolved that, elections for the Management Senator position take place under the auspices of the MUS, respectively, during the Winter 2017 term for the 2017-2018 academic year, in accordance with Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy.

Moved by:

Mariam Madwar, Management Representative
Lambert Lefebvre, Management Representative
Tre Mansdoerfer, Engineering Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Motion Regarding the Election of the Student Senator from the Faculty of Arts & Science

Whereas, concurrently holding the election of the Arts & Science Senator alongside the election of the Bachelor of Arts and Science Integrative Council (BASIC) executives may increase the number of interested candidates and voter turnout to the Senator position;

Whereas, Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy allows for the election of Student Senators under the auspices of their respective faculty associations;

Be it resolved that elections for the Arts & Science Senator position take place under the auspices of the BASIC, respectively, during the Winter 2017 term for the 2017-2018 academic year, in accordance with Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy.

Moved by:

Jerry Jiang, Arts & Science Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative
Motion Regarding the Election of the Student Senator from the School of Music

Whereas, concurrently holding the election of the Music Senator alongside the election of the Music Undergraduate Students’ Association (MUSA) executives may increase the number of interested candidates and voter turnout to the Senator position;

Whereas, Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy allows for the election of Student Senators under the auspices of their respective faculty associations;

Be it resolved that, elections for the Music Senator position take place under the auspices of the MUSA, respectively, during the Winter 2017 term for the 2017-2018 academic year, in accordance with Article 8.1(a) of the SSMU Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy.

Moved by:

Noah Century, Music Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative
Motion Regarding the Provision of Bridge Funding For Savoy Society

Whereas, Savoy Society was a recognized SSMU Service until Fall of 2016, where they lost their service status as per the recommendation of the Winter 2016 Service Review Committee report.

Whereas, Savoy Society performs a theatre production in Moise Hall every year during the Winter Semester, with expenses totaling $39,615.00. Including $16,615.00 for Moise Hall Rental, $9,500.00 for Costumes & Makeup, and $8,000.00 for Sets and Props. (SEE SAVOY BUDGET ATTACHED)

Whereas, The Savoy Society President, the Savoy Society VP Finance, and SSMU VP Finance have reasonably assured that these expenses will be reimbursed by 05/31/2017 based on the revenues and expenses submitted by the Savoy Society.

Whereas, there is currently a $51,245.59 surplus in the Campus Life Fee for the Fall 2016 Semester. (SEE ATTACHED FUND BALANCES)

Whereas, approximately another $39,000 (not exact due to minor fluctuations in enrollment) will be deposited in the CampusLife Fund at the beginning of the Winter 2017 Semester.

Whereas, The Savoy Society will be unable to perform their annual show without this bridge funding due to Budgetary constraints.

Be it resolved, the SSMU provide bridge funding to Savoy Society in the form of a no-interest $25,000 loan to be taken from the Campus Life Fund, to be fully repaid by May 31st, 2017.

Movers:

Niall Carolan, SSMU VP Finance
Noah Century, Music Representative
David Aird, VP External
Kahlil Ann Douglas, Services Representative
Kevin Zhou, FYC Representative
JANUARY 12, 2017

Motion Regarding Interim Provision for Board of Directors Reporting

Whereas, on November 3, 2016, the Legislative Council created an Ad-Hoc Democratic Governance Review Committee, with a mandate to “ensure the transparency and accountability of both elected and appointed bodies” of the SSMU, including the Board of Directors [1];

Whereas, the Ad-Hoc Democratic Governance Review Committee will report to the Legislative Council by the end of the academic year;

Whereas, the transparency and accountability of the Board of Directors can be immediately improved by providing for regular reporting to the Legislative Council and public access to documents;

Be it resolved, that the Interim Provision for Board of Directors Reporting, attached hereto as Appendix A, be adopted and remain in effect until May 31, 2017.

Moved by:

Igor Sadikov, Arts Representative
Olivia Shi, Residences Representative
Maria Thomas, Arts Representative
Ben Ger, President

APPENDIX A – INTERIM PROVISION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTING

1. DEFINITIONS
   1.1. Terms used in this Interim Provision shall have the same definitions as those given to the same terms in the Internal Regulations of Governance.

2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORTING
   2.1. REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. The Board of Directors shall submit to each regular meeting of the Legislative Council a report on all matters with which it has dealt since the previous meeting of the Legislative Council.
   2.2. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION. All minutes and documents of the Board of Directors shall be public documents, except for minutes and documents of confidential sessions.
Motion Regarding SSMU Opposition to Quebec Bill №62

Whereas, the SSMU is an organization that is committed to leadership in matters of human rights and strives to oppose discrimination in all its endeavors. As stated in the Leadership pillar in the preamble of the Constitution [1]:

All of the Society’s endeavors shall be undertaken with full respect for human dignity and bodily sovereignty and without discrimination on the basis of irrelevant personal characteristics that include but are not limited to race, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, sex, gender identification, age, mental or physical disability, language, sexual orientation or social class. The Society commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection.

Whereas, Bill 62, which has completed the “passage in principle” (first reading) stage on November 15, 2016, requires that personnel of public bodies exercise their functions with “face uncovered” and imposes restrictions on religious accommodations for such personnel [2];

Whereas, like the Parti Québécois’ Charter of Quebec Values proposed in 2013, this Bill implicitly positions non-Christian individual religious practices as unambiguously opposed to common Quebec values, to gender equality, and to the secular character of the state;

Whereas, in response to this Bill, the Parti Québécois and the Coalition Avenir Québec are calling for more drastic measures to be taken by the government, including outlawing the wearing of any religious symbols by judges, prison guards, or police officers, and a province-wide ban of the niqab;

Whereas, the Bill’s sponsor, Justice Minister Stéphanie Vallée, has admitted that there are currently “zero civil servants in Quebec who cover their faces, either with a niqab or burka” [3], and the Quebec English School Boards Association has criticized the Bill as “unnecessary” [4];

Be it resolved, that the SSMU publicly denounce the introduction and the passage in principle of Bill 62 for the reasons outlined above and condemn efforts to expand the scope of the Bill;

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU be mandated, through the Office of the Vice-President (External), to advocate against any further movement toward the adoption of the Bill as it stands.

Moved by:

David Aird, Vice-President (External)
Ben Ger, President
Olivia Shi, Residences representative
Marco Sgro, Education representative
Tuviere Okome, Environment representative
Yue Jiao, Athletics representative
Sacha Magder, VP (Operations)
Noah Century, Music representative
Romita Sur, Law representative
Kahli Ann Douglas, Services representative
Mckenzie Gingrich-Hadley, Nursing representative
Caitlin Mehrotra, Science representative
Adam Templer, Clubs representative
Maria Thomas, Arts representative

JANUARY 26, 2017

No approved motions.
FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Motion Regarding the Amendment of the SSMU Electoral Timeline

Whereas, the Executive & Senator Elections timeline adopted by the Legislative Council on September 29, 2016 is as follows:

Executive Nomination Period – January 30th to February 10th
Extended Executive Nomination Period – February 10th to 15th
Senator Nomination Period – January 30th to February 7th
Extended Senator Nomination Period – February 8th to 10th
Reallocated Nomination Period – February 11th to 15th
Reallocated Extended Nomination Period – February 16th to 17th
Reallocated Nomination Period 2 – February 18th to 21st
Reallocated Extended Nomination Period 2 – February 22nd to 23rd
Candidate Information Meeting – February 23rd
Campaign Period – March 6th to 16th
Polling Period – March 13th to 16th at 3:00PM
Election Announcement @ Gerts – March 16th at 5:00PM

Whereas, as per resolutions adopted by the Legislative Council in Fall 2016, all the Winter 2017 Senator elections are taking place under the auspices of their respective Faculty associations, rendering the Senator elections timeline obsolete;

Whereas, there is a large gap between the end of the Extended Executive Nomination Period and the Candidate Information Meeting;

Whereas, in order to maximize the accessibility of elected positions and the number of candidates, it is beneficial not to end the Nomination Period earlier than necessary;
Be it resolved, that the Executive & Senator Elections timeline be replaced with the following Executive Elections timeline:

Executive Nomination Period – January 30th to February 17th

Extended Executive Nomination Period – February 17th to 22nd

Candidate Information Meeting – February 23rd

Campaign Period – March 6th to 16th

Polling Period – March 13th to 16th at 3:00PM

Election Announcement @ Gerts – March 16th at 5:00PM

Moved by:

Ben Ger, President

Buland Junejo, Clubs Representative

Maria Thomas, Arts Representative
Motion Regarding the Immediate Suspension of the Canada-Us Safe Third Country Agreement

Whereas, the SSMU is an organization and union that supports a range of voices and equitable measures: “All the SSMU’s endeavours shall be undertaken with full respect for human dignity and bodily sovereignty and without discrimination on the basis of irrelevant personal characteristics that include but are not limited to race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, gender identification, age, mental or physical disability, language, sexual orientation or social class”;

Whereas, the SSMU is committed to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection; Whereas, the US Trump Administration signed an executive order (henceforth “the Executive Order”) indefinitely suspending Syrian refugees resettlement, and temporarily banning immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries (Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen) from entering the United States;

Whereas, the Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement (henceforth “the STCA”) requires asylum seekers to request refugee protection in the first “safe” country in which they arrive, thereby denying those travelling through or from the US the ability to make a refugee claim in Canada unless they qualify for one of the limited exceptions; [1]

Whereas, the STCA is premised on the assumption that the US and Canada are “safe [countries]” with refugee determination systems which will justly consider the claims of all asylum seekers;

Whereas, the Trump Administration has demonstrated through the Executive Order that the rights of any asylum seekers from the seven aforementioned Muslim-majority countries guaranteed by article 3 of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, not to be discriminated against on the basis of their country of origin, will be violated by the U.S. for the duration of the ban;

Whereas, upholding the STCA, the Canadian government is prohibiting vulnerable persons from seeking asylum in Canada, an act which constitutes an indirect breach of our obligation to uphold the principle of non-refoulement under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

Whereas, the United States is a signatory of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1987), specifically Article 31: “No State Party shall expel, return (‘refouler’) or extradite a person to another State where there are substantial grounds for believing that he would be in danger of being subjected to torture”;

Whereas, the United States has signed and ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965) codifying its duty to “condemn racial discrimination and undertake
to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms and promoting understanding among all races” (Article 2.1);

Whereas, students at McGill have come together and have initiated a national campaign to write letters to their MPs to move for the immediate suspension of the STCA; [2]

Whereas, professors and administrations from law faculties across Canada have made a call out to international students affected by the Executive Order to apply to McGill by extending and/or waiving their deadlines [3] and fees; [4]

Be it resolved, that the SSMU will join students across Canada, through its external relations, in calling upon the federal government to immediately suspend the STCA, including by writing a formal letter, cosigned with other student unions to be sent to the Minister of Refugees, Citizenship and Immigration and Prime Minister;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU will call on McGill University to waive application fees of students affected by the ban affecting the seven countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for the 90-day duration of the travel ban, with the possibility of extension of application period; this also should be applicable to people with refugee status who may not hold citizenship from the aforementioned seven countries.

Be it resolved, the SSMU will make public announcements and promote campus-related and local initiatives on their social media platforms;

Be it resolved, the SSMU will connect with Montreal Gazette, Globe and Mail, CBC Canada, La Presse, Le Devoir, and other media outlets on behalf of McGill students denouncing the Trump administration in light of their immigration policies impacting McGill students;

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU, as an organization that holds solidarity events condemning racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, colonialism, islamophobia, anti-semitism, and other forms of discrimination stand in solidarity with students affected by the Executive Order and will continue to strive to create an atmosphere of inclusivity by taking a stance against the Executive Order and condemning the violence it has sparked.

Motion drafted by: Romita Sur, Amelia Philpott, Shannon Snow, Gabriella Utreras

Motion unanimously approved by: Law Students’ Association Council on February 1, 2017
Moved by:

Romita Sur, Law Representative
Buland Junejo, Clubs Representative
McKenzie Gingrich-Hadley, Nursing Representative
Marco Sgro, Education Representative
http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/static-files/S3C.htm

http://publications.mcgill.ca/reporter/2017/01/law-students-faculty-step-up-for-human-rights-following-
ste-foy-shootings-u-s-travel-ban/

3. E. Richard Gold Twitter, Muslim Ban and Admissions
https://twitter.com/IP_policy/status/825714555909201921?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Fser-
p%7Ctwgr%5Etweet

4. E. Richard Gold Twitter, Muslim Ban and Admissions
https://twitter.com/IP_policy/status/825714555909201921?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Fser-
p%7Ctwgr%5Etweet
FEBRUARY 23, 2017

No approved motions.
MARCH 9, 2017

Motion Regarding Condemnation of Transphobic Event at the Newman Centre


Whereas, the SSMU Constitution mandates the SSMU to undertake all its endeavours “without discrimination on the basis of [...] gender identification” and commits it to “demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights [and] social justice”; [1]

Whereas, on February 2, the Newman Catholic Students’ Society (NCSS) organized a panel at the Newman Centre on the topic of Catholic faith and transgender issues, featuring as panelists Douglas Farrow, a professor at the McGill School of Religious Studies and the current Kennedy Smith Chair in Catholic Studies, and Moira McQueen, a professor of moral theology at the University of Toronto; [2]

Whereas, both Farrow and McQueen have authored transphobic articles, respectively arguing against legal protection from discrimination on the basis of gender identity [3] and against the use of hormone blockers and gender affirmation surgery; [4]

Whereas, following the raising of concerns by students and community members, the NCSS dissociated itself from the event, and later apologized for its failure to “take into consideration the lived experiences of trans people when initial plans were made”; [5]

Whereas, despite community concerns regarding the event’s adverse impact on trans people and the NCSS’s dissociation from the event, the Newman Centre proceeded to hold the panel as planned as per Farrow’s decision; [6]

Whereas, both Farrow and McQueen repeatedly engaged in transphobic speech during the panel; [7]

Whereas, the SSMU was involved in the promotion of the panel, having approved a promotional poster for display in the William Shatner University Centre; [8]

Be it resolved, that the SSMU condemn Douglas Farrow and Moira McQueen for their transphobic remarks;

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU condemn Douglas Farrow and the Newman Centre for the failure to cancel the panel on request from the NCSS, despite the event being organized by the NCSS;

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU advocate to the Dean of Arts for the reprimand of Douglas Farrow through the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs);
Be it further resolved, that the SSMU issue an apology for its role in the promotion of the February 2 panel, and, through the Office of the Vice-President (Internal), review its procedures to implement specific guidelines to prohibit discriminatory promotional material;

Be it further resolved, that, through the Office of the Vice-President (Internal), the SSMU extend an offer of logistical and promotional support to the NCSS, Queer McGill, and other groups in the event that such groups collaborate on an event centering trans perspectives on Catholicism;

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU reaffirm its commitment to cultivating a trans-positive atmosphere at McGill, and, through the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs), collaborate with relevant groups in the achievement of this goal.

Moved by:

Kahli-Ann Douglas, Services Representative
Caitlin Mehrotra, Science Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
1. SSMU Constitution, Preamble
5. https://www.facebook.com/events/1875344382694695/permalink/1909806432581823/
Motion Regarding Letter to the Board of Governors from the McGill Communities Council


Whereas, in Summer 2016 the SSMU released a research report, entitled A Seat at the Table: An Analysis of the McGill University Board of Governors, in order to examine longstanding issues with the structure and administration of the McGill Board of Governors;

Whereas, recommendations of the report include expanding Member-at-Large seats from the McGill community; soliciting public nominations for Members-at-Large; actively recruiting for diversity in Governors; revising regulations for closed and in-camera sessions; implementing tracked voting for all decisions; and developing consultative protocols for student input in decision-making;

Whereas, the McGill Communities Council (MCC) is an informal monthly gathering of representatives from all major campus staff and student associations, formed in 2012;

Whereas, SSMU Executives including the President, Vice-President (University Affairs), and Vice-President (External Affairs) regularly participate in meetings of the MCC;

Whereas, the MCC has discussed systemic or recurring issues with the Board of Governors throughout most of its existence;

Whereas, SSMU Executives have worked with the MCC since November 2016 in order to communicate the shared concerns of member associations to the Board, and make plans to meet with members of the Board to discuss solutions;

Whereas, a letter from the MCC summarizing these concerns was circulated to the Board of Governors on February 1, 2017;

Whereas, this letter was signed on behalf of the SSMU by the Executive, however it would be beneficial to have wider awareness and endorsement of these concerns among students;

Be It Resolved, That the SSMU Legislative Council formally endorse the Letter to the Board of Governors from the McGill Communities Council (Appendix A).

Moved by:

William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative
Isabella Anderson, Arts Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
1. “PRESS RELEASE – A Seat at the Table: An Analysis of the McGill University Board of Governors,” Students’ Society of McGill University (November 29, 2016).

Motion Regarding Referendum Question on Constitutional Amendments


Whereas, the changes to the titles and descriptions of executive positions made in Winter 2016 with the addition of a seventh executive position require adjustment, in particular to highlight the relative importance of sustainability to the portfolio of the Vice-President (Operations) and to return the management of human resources to the Office of the President;

Whereas, changes relating to the General Assembly (GA) have been proposed by the Ad-Hoc Democratic Governance Review Committee in order to empower the GA, facilitate the holding of GAs, accurately reflect current logistical practices, and remove redundancies and inconsistencies between the Constitution and the Internal Regulations;

Whereas, changes to the powers and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, altered significantly in Winter 2016, have been proposed by the Ad-Hoc Democratic Governance Review Committee, in particular to reduce the authority of the Board of Directors over the governing documents of the Society and empower the Board of Directors to suspend Officers;

Whereas, the Society’s territorial acknowledgement is one aspect of its commitment to Indigenous solidarity as an ongoing learning process, and should be updated to recognize the Anishinaabe claim to the territory on which McGill University is situated;

Whereas, several outstanding ambiguities and errors in the Constitution require correction, in particular the definition of “Policy”, the duties of the Speaker, and the status of the Judicial Board as body of the Board of Directors;

Whereas, the proposed amendments to the Constitution are attached hereto as Appendix A;

Be it resolved, that the following question be approved for the Winter 2017 Referendum period:

“Do you agree to amend the SSMU Constitution as detailed in Appendix A?”

Be it further resolved, that the above whereas clauses be included with this question on the ballot, and that a link to Appendix A be provided.

Moved by:

Tuviere Okome, Environment Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Maria Thomas, Arts Representative
Isabella Anderson, Arts Representative
APPENDIX A – AMENDMENTS TO THE SSMU CONSTITUTION

Be it resolved, that the Land Acknowledgement be amended as follows:

The SSMU acknowledges that McGill University is situated on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg and Kanien’kehá:ka Nations and a place which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst various Indigenous peoples. The SSMU recognizes and respects these nations as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which it is located.

Be it resolved, that the definition of “Policy” be amended as follows:

“Policy” shall mean a long-term governing document of the Society, as may be adopted in accordance with the Constitution and the Internal Regulations.

Be it resolved, that the second paragraph of article 7.1 be amended as follows:

Members who are not members of the Board of Directors shall receive notice of and be permitted to attend meetings of the Board of Directors, with the exception of confidential sessions. However, they shall not have the right to vote and shall not be counted towards the quorum at meetings of the Board of Directors.

Be it resolved, that the first sentence of article 7.8 be amended as follows:

The Board of Directors may resolve to adjourn a meeting to a different time and fix the time and place of the adjourned meeting, without further notice to the Directors being required.

Be it resolved, that the first sentence of article 8.10 be amended as follows:

The Legislative Council may, by way of resolution, create permanent committees and ad-hoc committees, as necessary, which shall have the powers and responsibilities as determined by the Legislative Council.
Be it resolved, that article 10.10 be amended as follows:

In case of absence, incapacity, a refusal or failure to act or for any other reason the Board of Directors considers sufficient, the Board of Directors may, exceptionally and for a determinate time period, suspend an Officer’s exercise of their powers and privileges or delegate the powers of an Officer to any other Officer.

Be it resolved, that article 10.11 be amended as follows:

PRESIDENT. The President shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties: to be the chief officer and chief spokesperson of the Society; to ensure the long-term integrity of the Society; to enforce the Constitution and Internal Regulations of the Society and ensure the maintenance of the governance documents; to chair and coordinate the activities of the Executive Committee; to manage the Society’s human resources; to call meetings of and set the agenda for the Legislative Council and the Board of Directors; to manage relations between the Society and the administration of McGill University; and to represent the Members on the University Senate and Board of Governors.

Be it resolved, that article 10.15 be amended as follows:

VICE-PRESIDENT (FINANCE). The Vice-President (Finance) shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties: to ensure the long-term financial stability of the Society; to provide the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors with regular reports on the financial status of the Society; to develop the annual budget of the Society in a manner consistent with the governing documents of the Society and the priorities set out by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors; to ensure that no individual or group disburses the Society’s funds without authorization; to manage any Society group insurance plan duly approved by the Members, in a manner consistent with the governing documents of the Society; to authorize all agreements that bind the Society; and to act as the representative of the SSMU to the SSMU Daycare Inc.
Be it resolved, that article 10.16 be amended as follows:

**VICE-PRESIDENT (SUSTAINABILITY & OPERATIONS).** The Vice-President (Sustainability & Operations) shall exercise the following powers and perform the following duties: to manage the use of the William Shatner University Centre; to coordinate the physical development of the William Shatner University Centre; to oversee the management of the Society’s business operations; to represent the Members on University bodies in charge of space and operational planning; and to operationalize the Society’s commitment to environmental sustainability and physical accessibility.

Be it resolved, that every reference to “Vice-President (Operations)” be replaced with “Vice-President (Sustainability & Operations)”;

Be it resolved, that article 11.1 be amended as follows:

**FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.** There shall be a body of the Society called the Executive Committee, which shall govern the Society between meetings of Board of Directors, in a manner not inconsistent with the governing documents of the Society.

Be it resolved, that article 11.6 be amended as follows:

**SPEAKER.** The Executive Committee shall appoint, from among the Members, a Speaker, and may appoint Vice-Speakers from among the Members as it deems necessary. The Speaker shall receive notice of and preside over the General Assembly, meetings of the Legislative Council, and, where applicable, meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee. For greater certainty, the Speaker may not vote or be counted towards the quorum at meetings over which the Speaker presides.
Be it resolved, that section 13 be amended as follows:

13. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13.1. GENERAL. A General Assembly shall receive and take notice of the annual report of the Board of Directors, the financial statements of the Society, including the balance sheet and statements of revenue and expenditures and the report of the auditors, and take notice of, and decide on, any other matter which the General Assembly may legally consider.

A General Assembly may establish, amend or rescind any Policy of the Society, but may not alter the following:

(a) the Constitution
(b) membership fees or other financial matters of the Society; and
(c) the composition of the Society’s staff.

13.2. PROCEDURES AND CALLING OF THE MEETINGS. At the instruction of the Executive Committee, the Speaker shall call a regular General Assembly to be held once during each Fall and Winter semester.

Furthermore, the Speaker shall call a Special General Assembly if requested to do so by a resolution of the Legislative Council, or in writing by no fewer than fifty (50) Members of the Society from at least four (4) different faculties or schools with no more than fifty percent (50%) being from any one faculty or school.

General Assemblies shall be called by way of a notice sent by electronic mail. The notice of the meeting shall specify the place, the date, and the time of such meeting. For a Special General Assembly, the notice shall additionally specify the nature of the business to be transacted, in which case no business that is not germane to the nature specified in the notice shall be transacted. The notice must be sent no less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the date set for the meeting.

General Assemblies shall be conducted according to the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, in its most current edition, subject to any special rules of procedure adopted by the Legislative Council.

13.3. PLACE OF MEETING. General Assemblies shall be held at the downtown campus of the University.
13.4. **QUORUM.** Unless the Act or the Letters Patent of the Society dictate otherwise, quorum for a regular General Assembly shall be one hundred (100) Members of the Society.

The Speaker shall not be counted towards the quorum at the General Assembly.

13.5. **ADJOURNMENT WITHOUT QUORUM.** If quorum is not reached at a General Assembly, those Members present shall have the power to adjourn the meeting and fix the time of the adjourned meeting. No notice is required for any adjourned meeting. At the continuance of the meeting, the Members may resume dealing with the business for which the original meeting was called.

13.6. **RESOLUTION WITHOUT QUORUM.** In the event that a General Assembly fails to meet quorum or loses quorum at any point, it may nonetheless transact business, but any resolutions passed without quorum shall not be binding unless subsequently ratified as set forth in the Internal Regulations.

13.7. **STRIKE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.** A Special General Assembly may be called to consider business related to a Society strike.

Quorum for a resolution to put the Society on strike shall be five hundred (500) Members of the Society.

13.8. **VOTING.** All Members shall be eligible to vote at a General Assembly. Unless otherwise provided for in the Act, this Constitution, or the Internal Regulations, all questions submitted to the Members shall be decided by a Simple Majority. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

The Speaker shall not have the right to vote at meetings of the General Assembly.

13.9. **RATIFICATION.** Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly that do not pass online ratification shall be null. The quorum for all General Assembly ratifications shall be ten percent (10%) of the Members.

**Be it resolved,** that article 14.2 be amended as follows:

**INITIATION.** Referenda may be initiated by the Legislative Council or Members, in accordance with the Internal Regulations.
Motion Regarding Revisions to the Indigenous Solidarity Policy


Whereas, the SSMU adopted an Indigenous Solidarity Policy (Appendix A) on March 31, 2016;

Whereas, when adopted this policy included several amendments proposed by councillors and executives without adequate consultation, such as imposing limits to the overall scope of the policy as well as the requirement for territory acknowledgements at some events;

Whereas, Indigenous students and community members have indicated that the current policy does not meet their needs in all areas, including but not limited to those sections revised at the Legislative Council meeting of March 31, 2016;

Whereas, effective Indigenous solidarity is an evolving learning process that requires constant engagement, critique, and adjustment;

Whereas, the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, Vice-President (University Affairs), and President have worked with the Indigenous Affairs Committee and Indigenous community members since Fall 2016 to develop revisions and clarifications to the Policy;

Be It Resolved, that the SSMU adopt the following revisions (Appendix B) to the Indigenous Solidarity Policy.

Moved by:

Mckenzie Gingrich-Hadley, Nursing Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
William Cleveland, Senate Caucus representative
Noah Century, Music representative
1. Legislative Council Minutes, Students’ Society of McGill University (March 31, 2016).
Motion Regarding SSMU Support for Floor Fellow Bargaining


Presented by: The Floor Fellows of McGill University

Whereas, Floor Fellows are employees of McGill University providing advice, support, and assistance to first years within the McGill Residence system;

Whereas, it is Floor Fellows’ utmost priority to create a community that is accessible, inclusive and safer for thousands of students living in McGill residences each year;

Whereas, Floor Fellows unionized in order to have a say in their working conditions, which had previously been denied to them in a few critical instances;

Whereas, Floor Fellows currently make $0 per hour in wages, and are compensated through room and board despite Quebec law mandating the employees be paid in the form of wages;

Whereas, Floor Fellows became an accredited bargaining Unit with the Association of McGill University Support Employees-Public Service Alliance of Canada in 2014;

Whereas, Floor Fellows began bargaining with McGill for their first Collective Agreement in 2014;

Whereas, an arbitration session on December 6, 2016 concluded discussions about issues that had been brought to the negotiation table and the final articles were signed on that day by both AMUSE Unit B and McGill bargaining teams, in the presence of an arbitrator;

Whereas, the lead negotiator for McGill University stated that he would have to ensure that the Agreement was acceptable to his superiors (who were unnamed);

Whereas, the lead negotiator for McGill University informed the union and the arbitrator on January 10, 2017 that “...l’article 20 qui traite de la rémunération, qui n’a pas été approuvé par la direction de McGill”;

Whereas, negotiation conventions dictate that bargaining teams appear at the negotiation table with a clear mandate as a sign of good faith;

Whereas, almost all Floor Fellows in a given year are SSMU members, SSMU has previously passed a motion in support of Floor Fellow bargaining, and has more recently endorsed AMUSE negotiations in the Fall of 2016;

Be it resolved, that the Students’ Society of McGill University publically denounce the actions of the McGill Administration and urge the Board of Governors’ Human Resources Committee to both reconsider the decision to back out of the agreement reached in Arbitration with Floor Fellows and to give the negotiators for McGill a mandate to sign the agreement previously reached with Floor Fellows as soon as possible;
Be it further resolved, that the Students’ Society of McGill University mobilize their own membership to support the Association of McGill University Support Employees (AMUSE) in their fight for a Collective Agreement which is fair to Floor Fellows and that recognizes their right to be paid a wage.

Moved by:

William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative
Tuviere Onookome-Okome, McGill School of Environment representative
Kia Kouyoumjian, McGill Arts Undergraduate Society Vice-President External
Isabella Anderson, Arts Representative to SSMU

Motion Regarding the Adoption of a Policy Against Unpaid Internships

Submitted for March 9, 2017.

Whereas, through its constitution the SSMU commits “to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection;”

Whereas, in Canada, almost one in four youth is unemployed, underemployed, or has given up looking for work; [1]

Whereas, unpaid internships exacerbate social inequalities by excluding from many prestigious and meaningful fields those students who cannot afford to work for free; [2]

Whereas, unpaid internships are already illegal in most situations in numerous jurisdictions across Canada, but continue to exist because of lax enforcement; [3]

Whereas, unpaid internships risk eliminating entry-level jobs and lowering starting wages for all, but particularly young workers; [4]

Whereas, research suggests there is no advantage in terms of hiring rates or starting salary for graduates with unpaid internship experience, but significant advantages in hiring and starting salary for those with paid internship experience; [5]

Whereas, at the Winter 2015 General Assembly the SSMU adopted a “Motion Regarding Unpaid Internships;” [6]

Whereas, this motion resolved that, “the SSMU develop a policy, in consultation with interested student groups and McGill University, clarifying when unpaid internships should be considered illegal for the purposes of this motion,” among other mandates;

Whereas, the SSMU hired a researcher in Summer 2016 in order to investigate the specific issues posed by unpaid internships for McGill students, accompanied by recommendations for improvement;

Whereas, an overview of this research was presented to the Legislative Council at its meeting of October 20, 2016;

Whereas, based on this research the Vice-President (University Affairs) and Vice-President (External Affairs) developed a policy in order to institutionalize existing and additional measures for advocacy and awareness-building on issues related to unpaid internships;

Be It Resolved, that the SSMU adopt the following Policy against Unpaid Internships (Appendix A), which shall expire on February 23, 2022.
Moved by:

Caitlin Mehrotra, Science Representative
Kahli-Ann Douglas, Services Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Noah Century, Music representative


MARCH 9, 2017

Motion Regarding Endorsement of “No” Vote for Athletics & Recreation Fee Increase

Whereas, approximately two-thirds of the McGill Athletics and Recreation budget is directly funded by student fees, [1] including the Athletics and Recreation Fee and the Athletics Facilities Improvement Fee; [2]

Whereas, students also pay additional fees for many core Athletics and Recreation services, including intramural sports and use of the fitness centre;

Whereas, the University administration is requesting an increase to the Athletics and Recreation Fee of $3.95 per semester per full-time student, and $2.39 per semester per part-time student; [3]

Whereas, the University administration currently charges McGill Athletics and Recreation for resources such as legal, accounting, and maintenance services (“overhead charges”), which are provided through the central operating budget; [4]

Whereas, Access to Information requests filed by the SSMU indicate that the funds from these overhead charges are intentionally redistributed from fee-funded (“1B budget”) units to operating grant-funded (“1A budget”) units; [5]

Whereas, overhead charges on Athletics and Recreation have increased from $248,674 in 2014-15 to $608,132 in 2016-17 (an overall increase of 40%, representing over $1.5 million in lost revenue during that same time period); [6]

Whereas, despite ongoing student advocacy efforts, net increases to overhead charges on units such as Athletics and Recreation and Student Services have not stopped for almost a decade; [7]

Whereas, the University administration has admitted that the only formula behind determining such overhead charges is the resource constraints of the institution at a given time; [8]

Whereas, recent Athletics and Recreation budget numbers indicate that it is within the university’s financial capacity not only to reduce overhead charges, but to increase funding transfers from the central operating budget to fee-funded units; [9]

Whereas, the University administration has previously rejected student proposals to implement women’s-only gym hours, [10] and has not released the recommendations of the resulting working group on gym accessibility (originally struck in 2015);

Whereas, the University administration has not released the results of investigations into past cases of sexual violence perpetrated by McGill athletes, nor identified any specific initiatives in response to these cases beyond consent education; [11]
Be It Resolved That, the SSMU formally endorse a “No” vote for the Athletics and Recreation Fee increase referendum question;

Be It Further Resolved, That the SSMU communicate this position to Members through its listserv and social media accounts, and make information on the “No” campaign available alongside its endorsement.

Moved by:

Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative
Kahli-Ann Douglas, Services Representative


11. http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2017/02/are-we-waiting-for-another-scandal/
MARCH 23, 2017

Motion Regarding Continued SSMU Participation in the AVEQ

Whereas, the SSMU is an independent student association and is currently not affiliated with any provincial or federal student association;

Whereas, the SSMU has a limited ability to influence provincial and federal politics as an independent student association and participation in a provincial student association allows for better representation of the voices of McGill students at the provincial level;

Whereas, the SSMU has historically affiliated with provincial student associations, allowing the SSMU to represent McGill student interests at the provincial and federal level by advocating for accessible and high quality education;

Whereas, the Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec, hereafter referred to as the AVEQ, is a provincial level student association with the mission to unite Quebec’s university students so as to defend their pedagogical, political, social, and economic interests, by means of research, representation, and mobilization;

Whereas, the SSMU has acted as an observer at the AVEQ since its inception and during the development phase from Spring 2015 up until the present;

Whereas, the SSMU conducted an unsuccessful affiliation campaign for the AVEQ in Winter 2016;

Whereas, more students voted to abstain in the aforementioned referendum than voted either in favour or against, suggesting a lack of awareness of the role of student federations in general and of the AVEQ in particular;

Whereas, the policies and orientations of the AVEQ consistently reflect the needs and priorities identified by SSMU members, including an emphasis on both Anglophone and Francophone participation, representation of international students, a balance of both mobilization and lobbying efforts, and specific campaigns related to sexual violence prevention, climate justice, educational accessibility, and more;

Whereas, a number of ongoing SSMU projects would benefit from participation in the AVEQ, including those to challenge ancillary fee increases, prevent the further deregulation of international student tuition, and improve health insurance and health care coverage for international students;

Whereas, the SSMU cannot remain as an observer at the AVEQ indefinitely;

Whereas, full membership in the AVEQ would provide significant advantages to McGill students in the form of permanent provincial representation, research resources, and funding for student initiatives;
Be It Resolved That, the SSMU remain as an observer at the AVEQ until the end of the 2017 calendar year;

Be It Resolved That, the SSMU send delegates to all Members’ Assemblies of the AVEQ during this time period;

Be It Resolved That, the SSMU, through the Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs), educate its members regarding the existence and role of the AVEQ, including during the Fall 2017 Orientation Week and Activities Night;

Be It Resolved That, the SSMU, through the Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs), bring a referendum question regarding affiliation to the AVEQ to the Legislative Council for consideration in Fall 2017, as per the referendum timelines approved by the Legislative Council.

Moved by:

Kia Kouyoumjian, Arts Representative
Mckenzie Gingrich-Hadley, Nursing Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Motion Regarding Endorsement of “No” Vote for Athletics & Recreation Fee Increase

Whereas, approximately two-thirds of the McGill Athletics and Recreation budget is directly funded by student fees [1], including the Athletics and Recreation Fee and the Athletics Facilities Improvement Fee; [2]

Whereas, students also pay additional fees for many core Athletics and Recreation services, including intramural sports and use of the fitness centre;

Whereas, the University administration is requesting an increase to the Athletics and Recreation Fee of $3.95 per semester per full-time student, and $2.39 per semester per part-time student; [3]

Whereas, the University administration currently charges McGill Athletics and Recreation for resources such as legal, accounting, and maintenance services (“overhead charges”), which are provided through the central operating budget; [4]

Whereas, Access to Information requests filed by the SSMU indicate that the funds from these overhead charges are intentionally redistributed from fee-funded (“1B budget”) units to operating grant-funded (“1A budget”) units; [5]

Whereas, overhead charges on Athletics and Recreation have increased from $248 674 in 2014-15 to $608 132 in 2016-17 (an overall increase of 40%, representing over $1.5 million in lost revenue during that same time period); [6]

Whereas, despite ongoing student advocacy efforts, net increases to overhead charges on units such as Athletics and Recreation and Student Services have not stopped for almost a decade; [7]

Whereas, the University administration has admitted that the only formula behind determining such overhead charges is the resource constraints of the institution at a given time; [8]

Whereas, recent Athletics and Recreation budget numbers indicate that it is within the university’s financial capacity not only to reduce overhead charges, but to increase funding transfers from the central operating budget to fee-funded units; [9]

Whereas, the University administration has previously rejected student proposals to implement women’s-only gym hours [10], and has not released the recommendations of the resulting working group on gym accessibility (originally struck in 2015);

Whereas, the University administration has not released the results of investigations into past cases of sexual violence perpetrated by McGill athletes, nor identified any specific initiatives in response to these cases beyond consent education; [11]

Be It Resolved That, the SSMU formally endorse a “No” vote for the Athletics and Recreation Fee increase referendum question;
Be It Further Resolved, That the SSMU communicate this position to Members through its listserv and social media accounts, and make information on the “No” campaign available alongside its endorsement.

Moved by:

Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative
Kahli-Ann Douglas, Services Representative
11. http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2017/02/are-we-waiting-for-another-scandal/
Motion Regarding Local Elections of Undergraduate Senators

Whereas, elections for Undergraduate Senators take place under the auspices of the Society, via Elections SSMU as per the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda (Article 4.1) [1] and the Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy (Article 8.1) [2];

Whereas, as per resolutions adopted by the Legislative Council in Fall 2016, all the Winter 2017 Undergraduate Senator elections are taking place under the auspices of their respective Faculty Associations;

Whereas, concurrently holding the election of Undergraduate Senators alongside the election of Faculty Association council members may increase the number of interested candidates and voter turnout to the Senator position, without a significant increase in organizational burden of the Faculty Association or their associated electoral bodies;

Whereas, elections of Undergraduate Senators by Faculty Associations will allow Elections SSMU greater flexibility in preparing their electoral timeline, administering elections and referenda, and conducting investigations;

Be it resolved, that Article 8.1 of the Internal Regulations of Representation and Advocacy be amended as in Appendix A.

Be it further resolved, that Article 4.1 of the Internal Regulations of Elections and Referenda be amended as in Appendix B.

Moved by:

Joshua Chin, Senate Caucus Representative
Tre Mansdoerfer, Engineering Representative
Sacha Magder, Vice-President (Operations)
Marco Sgro, Education Representative
Motion Regarding Revisions to the Equity Policy


Whereas, through its constitution the SSMU commits “to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection;”

Whereas, the complaints process laid out in the current Equity Policy (Appendix A) allows for Members to address equity issues and ensure the accountability of the Society to its anti-oppressive mandate;

Whereas, the current Equity Policy is unclear and inaccessible as a procedural guide for both students and Equity Officers;

Whereas, the current Equity Policy is overly broad in scope and lacks provisions to protect already marginalized students from undue stress related to the complaints process, among other gaps and ambiguities;

Whereas, the Equity Commissioners and the Vice-President (University Affairs) have worked since Summer 2016 to draft revisions to the Policy, with the goal of clarifying and improving the structure and process for complaints;

Be It Resolved, that the SSMU adopt the revised Equity Policy (Appendix B).

Moved by:
Romita Sur, Law Representative
Caitlin Mehrotra, Science Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
APRIL 6, 2017

Motion Regarding Amendments to the Internal Regulations of Finance

Whereas, the Society has undergone considerable, ongoing internal restructuring in order to meet budgetary reductions as well as minimize procedural overhead costs;

Whereas, the current funding procedures have been identified as an area that generates significant workload for the accounting department;

Whereas, the Vice-President (Finance), Funding Commissioner, and Funding Committee have determined that there are opportunities to streamline the evaluation and disbursement of funding;

Be It Resolved That, Sections 1 and 2 of Part 1 “General Funding Guidelines” of IR-05- of the Internal Regulations of Finance be amended to read as follows:

INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF THE SOCIETY’S FINANCES-05: FUNDING COMMITTEE

PART I: GENERAL FUNDING GUIDELINES

1. GENERAL

1.1 ALLOCATION BY INSTALLMENT. Funding shall be allocated on an installment basis and must conform to the following guidelines:

a. Fifty percent (50%) of approved funding will be allocated upon approval of the funding application. In the event that a group or applicant requires more than fifty percent (50%) of the approved funding up front, the group or applicant must provide a written explanation in their application outlining their need. The Funding Committee may grant such a request by a Simple Majority vote.

b. Up to fifty percent (50%) of approved funding will be allocated upon submission of the applicant’s Second Instalment Report.

c. The deadline for reimbursement will be set jointly by the Vice-President (Finance) and the Funding Commissioner. Failure to submit any requested documents will forfeit the funding.

d. The Funding Committee may make exceptions to any of the above on a case-by-case basis.

1.2 SECOND INSTALMENT REPORTS. The Second Instalment Reports shall include

a. a report describing the details of the Initiative for which funding was received;

b. a statement of the actual revenues and expenses of the Initiative;
c. all receipts and other relevant documentation required in order to verify revenues and expenses from the Initiative;

d. a description of any discrepancies between the proposed budget, included with the application for which funding was allocated, and the actual revenues and expenses;

e. other information as requested by the Funding Committee;

1.3 ASSESSMENT OF FUNDING COMMISSIONER. The Funding Commissioner shall be responsible for the assessment and disbursement of the remaining fifty percent (50%), based on the Second Instalment Report received and may at their discretion refuse to allocate any part of the remaining fifty percent (50%). The Funding Commissioner may not refuse to allocate more than one half of the remaining fifty percent (50%) without the approval of the Funding Committee.

2. FUNDING REQUESTS

2.1 GENERAL. The following shall apply to requests for funding from the portion of Fees that are for distribution by the Funding Committee:

a. All requests must be addressed to the Funding Commissioner.

b. No other Committee of the Legislative Council or Officer of the Society may allocate funding from these Fees. The Society may not enter into any contracts that allocate any portion of these Fees.

2.2 ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENTS. Requests for funding from the Funding Committee must adhere to all of the following guidelines, without exception:

a. The request must be made by a Member;

b. No funds may be used to loan resources to Society groups for the purposes of startup costs;

c. No salaries or stipends may be funded. Note that this article should not be interpreted to mean that honorariums for speakers, facilitators, and volunteers are ineligible;

d. No funding applications may be approved if they span more than one (1) Fiscal Year;

e. No funding shall be approved for alcohol; and,

f. No group shall be granted funding in excess of the amount requested in their application or applications.
2.3 EXCEPTABLE REQUIREMENTS. Requests for funding from the Funding Committee must adhere to all of the following guidelines, unless the Funding Committee chooses by a two-thirds (2/3) vote to make an exception:

a. Members must be responsible for and involved in the overall coordination and production of the Initiative;

b. No Member may be restricted from attending or participating in the Initiative, unless a distinction or preference is necessary for an Initiative that has as its object the amelioration of conditions of individuals or groups with specific needs;

c. A specific time frame for the Initiative must be included in the application;

d. The funding allocation cannot benefit only one individual student;

e. The application must be limited to funding for the current term, except where otherwise stated in these Internal Regulations; and,

f. No Initiative without a deficit shall be granted funding;

2.4 FURTHER REQUIREMENTS. The Funding Committee may establish any further requirements for funding applications provided they are consistent with the aforementioned requirements.

2.5 ADDITIONAL CONDITION. Funding granted shall be dependent upon the applicant’s demonstrable efforts to fundraise and obtain sponsorship.

2.6 PREVIOUS FUNDING NOT RELEVANT. Previous funding allocations do not constitute reasoning for providing current funding allocations to any student group.

2.7 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS. All requests for Fees for distribution through the Funding Committee must be accompanied by:

a. a Funding Application form;

b. the amount of funding being requested;

c. the specific fund from which funding being requested;

d. a description of the group requesting funding;

e. a description of the Initiative for which funding is being requested;

f. a justification of why the Initiative should be funded;
g. a comprehensive budget, showing all expected revenue and expenses for the Initiative; and

h. an annual budget for the group, where applicable.

2.8 ONE APPLICATION PER FUND. Under no circumstances may a group apply to more than one fund in the same application. This should not be interpreted to mean that a group may not submit multiple applications, each to different funds, for the same Initiative.

PART IV – FEE-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

Whereas, the funds allocated by the Funding Committee are intended to serve members and groups who require financial assistance where financial resources are not readily available;

Whereas, the Equity Fee is consistently underapplied to for student-run initiatives;

Whereas, the Equity Committee has historically been the main recipient of the Equity Fee;

Whereas, the Mental Health, Environment, and Building Operations and Management Committees are able to allocate a portion of their respective fees;

Be It Resolved That, Sections 13 and 15 of Part 4, “Fee-Specific Regulations” of IR-06 of the Internal Regulations of Finance be amended to read as follows:

13. EQUITY FEE

13.1 PURPOSE. The Equity Fee is meant to empower campus members to engage in initiatives that foster leadership, encourage civic engagement, and make observable and/or measurable differences in the representation or experiences of individuals who are members of historically and currently disadvantaged groups, support projects, research and policies that aim to end discrimination and promote accessibility and inclusiveness in the McGill community.

13.2 NAME. The Equity Fee shall also be known as the “Equity Fund” for the purposes of its promotion and relevant communications with student groups.

13.3 EQUITY COMMISSIONER SEAT. One Equity Commissioner will sit on the Funding Committee as outlined in the Committee Terms of Reference, as a voting member only for the Equity Fee applications.

15. MENTAL HEALTH FEE

15.1 PURPOSE OF SOCIETY PORTION. The Mental Health Fee is intended to support the Society’s mental health-related initiatives such as Mental Health Awareness Week and similar events and outreach initiatives, as well as paying for student staff to coordinate such initiatives.
15.2 PURPOSE OF FUNDING PORTION. The Mental Health Fee is also intended as a source of financial assistance to empower mental health-related Initiatives run by student groups. When assessing Mental Health Fee requests, the Funding Committee must be satisfied that the initiative’s objective will contribute to the promotion of mental health awareness, improvement of students’ mental health, and/or the destigmatization of mental health issues on campus.

15.3 NAME. The portion of the Mental Health Fee for distribution by the Funding Committee shall also be known as the “Mental Health Fund” for the purposes of its promotion and relevant communications with student groups.

15.4 ALLOCATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE. The Mental Health Committee must decide, in conjunction with the Vice-President (Finance) and Vice-President (Student Life), and before the October Revised Operating Budget, how much of the Mental Health Fee the Mental Health Committee will require for their own projects and initiatives throughout the year. The Vice-President (Finance) will include this information in the October Budget Revision.

15.5 ALLOCATION FOR OTHER PROJECTS. The Vice-President (Student Life) must decide, in conjunction with the Vice-President (Finance) and before the October Revised Operating Budget, how much of the Mental Health Fee the Vice-President (Student Life) will require for their own projects and initiatives throughout the year. The Vice-President (Finance) will include this information in the October Budget Revision.

15.6 ALLOCATION BY FUNDING COMMITTEE. The remainder of the Mental Health Fee shall be allocated by Funding Committee for events and initiatives pertaining primarily to first year students. The Vice-President (Finance) must ensure that a minimum of five thousand dollars ($5,000) is reserved for distribution through the Funding Committee for student-run projects and initiatives. Neither the Mental Health Committee nor the Vice-President (Student Life) may apply to the Mental Health Fee that is meant for allocation by the Funding Committee.

15.7 MENTAL HEALTH SEAT. The Mental Health Committee shall designate a single representative to sit on the Funding Committee for the academic year. The designated representative shall sit on Funding Committee, as outlined in the Committee Terms of Reference, as a voting member only for the Mental Health Fee applications. This person sits on the Funding Committee to act as a consultant with a relevant background in mental health awareness and destigmatization work.
Whereas, SSMU Services consistently post surpluses, which indicates an inefficient use of resources, and negatively impacts Services’ ability to produce sustainable budgets year over year.

Whereas, the aforementioned surpluses are currently attributed to the Services’ next fiscal year’s operating budget;

Whereas, Year end surpluses vary based on operational activity, and therefore cannot be relied upon as a sustainable source of funding.

Whereas, Services extend their financial capacity beyond their annual student fee funding, relying on rolled-over year end surpluses.

Be It Resolved That, Section 4, of IR-07, “Funds” of the Internal Regulations of Finances be amended to read as follows:

4. STUDENT LIFE FUND

4.1 VARIANCE. Variance shall refer to the difference between actual net results and budgeted net results for a given fund, department, line item, or budget.

4.2 PURPOSE. The Student Life Fund shall provide a space for year-end variances to be made available in future years without rolling into the Capital Expenditure Reserve Fund.

4.3 DEPARTMENTS. The following are subject to having their variances transferred into the Student Life Fund:

a. Fees for distribution by the Funding Committee;

b. Services that are funded by Fees;

c. Services that are not funded by Fees;

d. Affiliated Student Associations; and,

e. the Mental Health Department;

4.4 AMOUNT TRANSFERRED. The amount of each Department’s variance that is transferred into the Student Life Fund at the end of each year shall be reduced by the amount spent by the Department on capital assets.

4.5 RECORD KEEPING. The Vice-President Finance and General Manager shall keep record of each Department’s balance within the Student Life Fund and keep an accurate record of transfers into and out of the Student Life Fund.

4.6 AUTOMATIC TRANSFERS TO THE FUND. Any variance shall be automatically transferred into the Student Life Fund at the end of the Fiscal Year.
4.7 **AUTOMATIC TRANSFERS BACK.** All Fees, Services, Affiliated Student Associations and other Departments listed in Section 5.3 shall have their variance automatically transferred back into their Departments at the beginning of the next Fiscal Year after the audited financial statements have been completed without needing to request the transfer.

4.8 **COMMUNICATION OF BALANCE.** The Vice-President (Finance) is responsible for communicating the Student Life Fund balance of each Department to each respective Department at least two (2) weeks before the budget deadline, pending the completion of the audited financial statements.

4.9 **INACTIVE SERVICE OR DEPARTMENT.** If a Service or Department has accumulated a balance within the Student Life Fund but has been inactive for two (2) years, the Board of Directors may approve the transfer of this accumulated variance into the Capital Expenditure Reserve Fund or the Operating Fund.

4.10 **CLUB BANK BALANCES.** At the end of the Fiscal Year, the Society shall perform one of the following transfer options:

a. **NET INCREASE.** In the event of a net increase in the total Club bank account balances over the fiscal period, the Society shall transfer an amount equal to the net increase to the Student Life Fund from the Operating Fund, in order to offset the net revenue incurred by the Society as a result of the Clubs’ net revenues.

b. **NET DECREASE.** In the event of a net decrease in the total Club bank account balances over the fiscal period, the Society shall transfer an amount equal to the net decrease to the Operating Fund from the Student Life Fund, in order to offset the net expense incurred by the Society as a result of the Clubs’ net expenditure.

**Moved By:**

Niall Carolan, Vice-President (Finance)
Anoosh Poorian, Science Representative
Adam Templer, Clubs Representative
Buland Junejo, Clubs Representative
Motion Regarding Endorsement of Open Letter on Mental Health

Whereas, on March 31st the McGill Mental Health Working Group released an open letter outlining ongoing concerns with McGill Counselling and Mental Health Services (CAMHS); [1]

Whereas, systemic changes introduced to CAMHS this year have not effectively addressed concerns with insufficient and inaccessible support services;

Whereas, the letter calls on the administration to take the following actions:

1. Address urgent student and staff concerns in Counselling & Mental Health Services;
2. Keep all dedicated funding in Student Services by eliminating the $650 000 in annual overhead that is deducted from this budget by the central administration;
3. Implement a comprehensive, campus-wide, evidence-based Mental Health Strategy that addresses the spectrum of mental health needs and acknowledges the responsibility of university stakeholders outside of Student Services to create a healthier community;

Whereas, the letter includes an appendix of 25 specific recommendations for improvement;

Whereas, the letter has collected over 300 signatures as of Sunday April 2, 2017;

Be It Resolved That, the SSMU formally sign on to the open letter;

Be It Further Resolved, That the SSMU distribute this letter through its relevant communication channels, including social media and the listserv.

Moved by:

Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Kahli-Ann Douglas, Services Representative
William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative

Motion Regarding SSMU Solidarity with the Coalition of Community Groups Demanding an End to Citizenship-Based Discrimination in Employment

Whereas, the Professional Syndicates Act [1] (adopted in 1924), which is used by 1,740 unions and nonprofits in Quebec to incorporate and operate, specifically restricts staff employment to Canadian citizens;

Whereas, a Haitian accounting technician with permanent residency status was recently fired from their place of work on the grounds that they do not have Citizenship status;

Whereas, they were the only person of colour in their workplace and other foreign nationals at the same workplace were not let go from their jobs;

Whereas, the Quebec Human Rights and Youth Rights Commission (HRC) recently ruled, in response to the complaint filed by the Center for Research-Action on Race Relations (CRARR) [2], that citizenship is not a ground of discrimination according to the Quebec Charter, thus dismissing the complaint [3];

Whereas, as a result of this ruling citizenship discrimination is effectively permitted by the Quebec Charter and the Commission cannot protect victims or accept their complaints;

Whereas, by refusing to address race and the intersectionality of race and citizenship in the case, the Human Rights Commission’s decision creates a dangerous precedent for immigrants, and racialized and ethnic minorities in particular, in Quebec;

Whereas, in accordance with the HRC’s decision any employer or service provider can now demand citizenship as a condition of employment, rental or service delivery – without legal sanctions - which will disproportionately affect already marginalized communities currently living in or wishing to live in Quebec, as well as full-time resident Members of the SSMU;

Whereas, a coalition of community groups, including CRARR and the Organisation des Femmes Philippines du Québec (PINAY) [4], has recently taken a collective stance against this ruling and the legislation behind it [5];

Be It Resolved, that the SSMU stand in solidarity with the coalition of community groups and endorse their demands (Appendix A);

Be It Further Resolved, that the SSMU advocate within the McGill and the broader Quebec community through the Offices of the Vice-President (University Affairs) and Vice-President (External Affairs) to have the HRC’s decision be void and declared unconstitutional;

Be It Further Resolved, that the SSMU advocate through similar Offices with the goal of having the Professional Syndicates Act amended to remove any clauses that contribute to the “legalization” of discrimination based on citizenship;

Be It Further Resolved, that the SSMU circulate this Motion to the Executive Committee of AVEQ and all of its Member and Observer associations with the goal of building a position(s) based on this matter.
Moved by:

Lambert Lefebvre, Management Representative
Mariam Madwar, Management Representative
Leonardo Nassani, Dentistry Representative
Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Buland Junejo, Clubs Representative
Maria Thomas, Arts Representative
APPENDIX A - CRARR DEMANDS

Demand 1:

An end of this legislated discrimination based on citizenship, “with all deliberate speed.” Citizenship as a condition of employment or professional development was declared unconstitutional in 1989 by the Supreme Court in the Andrews case. There is no justification for citizenship to work in a union or a nonprofit. Citizenship discrimination can open wider doors to racial and ethnic discrimination, in this age of rising nativism and nationalism, since more than 70% of immigrants coming to Quebec are racialized people.

Demand 2:

The Quebec Government should not wait any longer, because it has waited for more than a year since the case was brought to its attention. Every day of week of waiting is every day or week allowing discrimination based on citizenship to take place without legal sanctions.

Demand 3:

CRARR and the woman in question will challenge the constitutionality of the Professional Syndicates Act before the courts. CRARR invites support and contribution from everyone concerned about this to help it challenge the law. CRARR calls upon all unions, that are incorporated under this law, to do its part.
Motion to Advocate For Changes to the McGill Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures to Support Survivors

Whereas, McGill has failed to take sufficient disciplinary action protecting survivors of (including but not limited to) gendered violence, physical harassment and assault, as well as sexual harassment and assault, due to the limitations of the ‘University or McGill Context’ included in the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, [1]

Whereas, the consequences of such a failure to act resulting from limitations of context, as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, is made explicitly clear in a recent article released by the McGill Tribune, [2]

Whereas, McGill has failed to take sufficient action protecting survivors of (including but not limited to) gendered violence, physical harassment and assault, as well as sexual harassment and assault in instances where arrests have been made on criminal charges,

Whereas, the SSMU has a responsibility to its membership who are survivors to advocate for revisions to the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures to protect their safety, in accordance with the values of Service, Representation and Leadership as laid out in the Preamble of the SSMU Constitution, [3]

Whereas, other universities have developed codes of conduct stressing the importance of the personal integrity of students, and a response to criminal behaviour to protect survivors of (including but not limited to) gendered violence, physical harassment and assault, as well as sexual harassment and assault, [4] [5]

Be it resolved, that the SSMU advocate for immediate and detailed revision of the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures to expand the context for consideration of disciplinary action, with specific regards to Section 1.B.10 “Physical Abuses, Harassment and Dangerous Activity” and Section 1.B.15 “Relationship with Civil Law and Authority,”

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU Executives review this motion, and stress the importance of revisions to the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures to the incoming SSMU Executives during transition, [6]

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU Executives of the 2017-2018 Academic Year stress the importance of revisions to the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures to the incoming Student Senators in order that they may advocate for revisions at McGill Senate and support SSMU Executives in their advocacy when necessary,

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU President of the 2017-2018 Academic Year advocate for the creation of a committee consisting of students and faculty dedicated to revising the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures at all appropriate McGill governance bodies,
Be it further resolved, that the SSMU Vice-President, University Affairs of the 2017-2018 Academic Year advocate for the creation of a committee consisting of students and faculty dedicated to revising the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures at all appropriate McGill governance bodies,

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU President of the 2017-2018 Academic Year coordinate advocacy efforts to create a committee dedicated to revising the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures in conjunction with Faculty Associations through organization at the President’s roundtable,

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU President of the 2017-2018 Academic Year will report to SSMU Legislative Council on their efforts and any progress in establishing a committee to review the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures in each report of their portfolio to Council,

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU Executive Committee of the 2017-2018 Academic Year take any additional steps they deem necessary to advocate for the creation of a committee dedicated to revising the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Moved by:

Adam Templer, Clubs Representative
Tre Mansdoerfer, Engineering Representative
Joshua Chin, Senate Caucus Representative
McKenzie Gingrich-Hadley, Nursing Representative
Isabella Anderson, Arts Representative