



General Assembly Resolution Book

**Resolutions passed at the SSMU's General
Assemblies**

Updated as of: 2016-03-07



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2011-2012 General Assembly Resolutions

September 26, 2011

Motion Regarding the Democratic Reform of the SSMU Board of Directors

Valid: September 26, 2011 – September 26, 2016

Whereas, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) must meet Quebec Law requirements that only Canadian citizens or permanent residents may sit on the Board of Directors in order to not risk the Society's liquor permit;

Whereas, the Society's Board of Directors currently comprises seven people, of whom the voting members are the Society's Executive Officers who meet the citizenship requirements outlined above, plus SSMU Councillors elected to fill any additional seats;

Whereas, the Society's Board of Directors must have ultimate decision-making authority according to Quebec law;

Whereas, the Legislative Council is designed to be the highest decision-making body of the Society;

Whereas, the current composition of the Board of Directors gives more power to the Executive Officers than to the elected members of the Legislative Council;

Whereas, transparency in decision-making is crucial to a democratic students' society;

Resolved, that the SSMU shall insert the following into its by-laws:
Students' Society of McGill University / Association Étudiante de l'Université McGill (the "Corporation") By-Law 2011-2, Concerning the Size, Composition and Functioning of the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Moved by:

Maggie Knight, President

Shyam Patel, Vice-President (Finance & Operations)

Emily Yee Clare, Vice-President (University Affairs)

Carol Ellen Fraser, Vice-President (Clubs & Services)

Todd Plummer, Vice-President (Internal)

Joël Pedneault, Vice-President (External)



Motion Regarding Student Consultation in Re-Appointment of the Deputy Provost of Student Life and Learning

Valid: September 26, 2011 – September 26, 2016

Whereas, the McGill Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities states that “The University has an obligation to ensure that administrative decisions are made, or actions taken, with fair regard for known and legitimate interests of students.” (Part 1, Article 5);

Whereas, a memorandum was signed by the Presidents of 11 undergraduate faculty associations, in addition to the Students’ Society of McGill University (SSMU), opposing the extension of the term of Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) this summer without the formation of a consultative body including students;

Whereas, the undergraduate student body should have been consulted in this process by the McGill Administration;

Whereas, the McGill University Statutes 3.4.1 states that “Before recommending an appointment of the office Provost, Deputy Provost, or Vice-Principal, the Principal shall have consulted an advisory committee consisting of four representatives of the Board of Governors, four representatives of the Senate and two students,” meaning that the University is not required to consult such a committee in the event of the re-appointment of those holding the above positions;

Whereas, the McGill University Statutes 3.4.2 reads “Before recommending an appointment or reappointment for the office of dean of a large faculty, the Principal shall have consulted an advisory committee of thirteen members, which shall consist of four members nominated by the faculty immediately concerned, four members not necessarily members of the faculty concerned, nor of Senate, appointed by Senate, two members appointed by the Board of Governors, and three student members.”;

Whereas, just as McGill respects the interests of students by consulting student representatives in the case of the re-appointment of faculty deans, so should it consider student interests in the case of re-appointments of the Provost, Deputy Provosts, or Vice-Principals;

Whereas, the McGill By-Law Book-1 10.1.1 states that the duty of the SSMU Representative to the McGill Board of Governors is “to represent the student body at the Board of Governors”;

Resolved, that the SSMU Representative to the McGill Board of Governors and the SSMU Representatives to Senate make all reasonable effort to amend the University Statutes article 3.4.1 to add “reappointment, or extension” to read:

“Before recommending an appointment, reappointment or extension for the office of Provost, Deputy Provost, Deputy Provost, or Vice-Principal, the Principal shall have consulted an advisory committee consisting of four representatives of the Board of Governors, four representatives of the Senate and two students.”

Moved by:

Adam Winer, Clubs and Services Representative

Undersigned by:



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Micha Stettin, Arts Representative

Alexander Kunev, Engineering Representative

James Burnett, Arts Representative



Motion Regarding the Institutionalization and Documentation of SSMU's Leadership for Sustainability

Valid: September 26, 2011 – September 26, 2016

Whereas, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) has made it clear that it is committed to sustainability;

Whereas, the SSMU's adoption of the Five Year Plan for Sustainability in 2009 was a major step towards institutionalizing sustainability within the SSMU's operations;

Whereas, clear and accurate benchmarks are necessary to properly direct student effort in making the SSMU more sustainable;

Whereas, a comprehensive sustainability assessment of the SSMU was done in 2008, which included the recommendation for the assessment to be updated annually;

Whereas, with the creation of the new permanent Sustainability Coordinator position, the SSMU now has the human capacity to carry out that recommendation;

Whereas, student awareness of sustainability efforts and successes on campus is essential for continued student-led action;

Whereas, a central report assessing all sustainability-related work done by student groups and university staff would give a clear overview of the state of sustainability within both SSMU and McGill;

Resolved, that the SSMU will update the Sustainability Assessment annually in an effort to have an overarching understanding of the McGill environmental community and serve as a communication tool for interested students and related green groups;

Resolved, that this new assessment will be compiled by the Sustainability Coordinator reflecting his/her work and will, at a minimum, include:

- An overview of projects that different green student groups have done,
- A summary of the exit reports from the Environment Commissioners, Green Events Coordinator and Green Building Coordinator,
- An evaluation of the year's progress and how they fulfill the long-term goals of SSMU,
- A reflection on the SSMU's relationship with both the Office of Sustainability and McGill University and a list of recommendations for the following academic year

Resolved, that this report should be made publicly available to all students on campus and in the Montreal community.

Moved by:
Aryeh Canter

Undersigned by:
Emily Yee Clare, Vice-President (University Affairs)



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Carol Ellen Fraser, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)

Kady Paterson, Education Representative

Sahil Chani, Clubs and Services Representative



Motion Regarding Accessible Education

Valid: September 26, 2011 – September 26, 2016

Whereas, the Quebec Government has announced that tuition fees for university students in the province will continue to increase past September 2012, at a rate of 325\$ per year for Quebec students, thus totalling a 1625\$ increase over five years;

Whereas, the Quebec Government still has not announced by how much out-of-province and international tuition fees will increase;

Whereas, research conducted by the Quebec Ministry of Education indicates that University-level tuition fee increases may discourage thousands of potential students from pursuing post-secondary education;

Whereas, any increase in tuition fees will lead to an increase in student debt given the current parameters of student financial aid in Quebec and Canada;

Whereas, student associations and federations across Quebec are planning mass demonstrations against the most recently announced tuition fee increases, including one on November 10, 2011 which will take place in Montreal;

Whereas, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) currently has a "Policy on Accessible Education" (reference: page 31 of the SSMU Policy Manual) which is set to expire in February 2012;

Resolved, that the SSMU continue to uphold the following mandates on accessibility to post-secondary education:

- Support for high-quality, universally accessible post-secondary education as a human right,
- Opposition to any mechanism or legislation that would permit a non-consensual increase in student fees for any student, whether Quebecker, Canadian, or international,
- Call for a public re-investment in post-secondary education from all levels of government,
- Call for the elimination of all financial barriers to a high-quality post-secondary education, and advocate for a progressive reduction of tuition fees for all students, including the eventual replacement of any and all ancillary and tuition fees with alternative methods of funding post-secondary education,
- Work with all elements of the Quebec and Canadian student movements towards these goals

Resolved, that the SSMU specifically oppose the most recently announced \$1625 tuition increase affecting Quebec students;

Resolved, that the SSMU encourage its members to participate in the upcoming demonstration on November 10, 2011 against tuition increases,



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Resolved, that the External Affairs Committee, in conjunction with SSMU's Political Attaché Researcher, work to develop informational materials and policy proposals regarding out-of-province and international students, in line with SSMU's commitment to accessible education for all students.

Moved by:

Joël Pedneault, Vice-President (External)

Undersigned by:

James Burnett, Arts Representative

Kady Paterson, Education Representative

Micha Stettin, Arts Representative



Motion Regarding Support of Workers' Struggles

Valid: September 26, 2011 – September 26, 2016

Whereas, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) has a policy of "Solidarity with Workers' Struggles" (reference: page 28 of the SSMU Policy Manual);

Whereas, this policy will expire on October 5, 2011;

Whereas, in the past five years many unions have been created on campus, leading to the creating the Inter-Union Council with SSMU's involvement;

Whereas, many of the SSMU's members are union members on campus;

Whereas, the SSMU is a part of the broader McGill and Montreal community;

Whereas, the well-being of students depend on workers both on and off-campus;

Whereas, in its constitution, the SSMU commits itself to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights and social justice and is mindful of the effects that corporations, businesses, and organizations have on their social, political, and economic surroundings;

Resolved, that the SSMU actively engage, support, and work in coordination with all campus unions and the Inter-Union Council;

Resolved, that in periods when a campus union has gone on strike, the SSMU will actively do the following:

- Collect information and solicit various perspectives on the issues,
- Disseminate information to the student body,
- Support the workers in their strike by whatever means at its disposal, including but not limited to:
 - Participating in the picket line,
 - Issuing a statement in support of the strikers,
 - Petitioning the University,
 - Organizing rallies in solidarity

Moved by:

Micha Stettin, Arts Representative

Undersigned by:

Emily Yee Clare, Vice-President (University Affairs)

Sahil Chaini, Clubs and Services Representative

James Burnett, Arts Representative



February 1, 2012

Motion Regarding the Selection of the Financial Auditor

Valid: February 1, 2012 – February 1, 2017

Whereas, the SSMU has the responsibility to provide an audited financial statements report to the McGill undergraduate student body for every fiscal year;

Whereas, the SSMU, as a not-for-profit organization, is required to maintain financial accountability and that its finances are both reliable and valid;

Whereas, material transactions must be verified by an auditor to avoid any fiscal misstatements;

Whereas, the SSMU has worked with RSM Richter, a recognized auditing firm;

Whereas, the SSMU Legislative Council has approved a professional fees budget that takes into consideration the expense of the auditor's fee;

Resolved, the SSMU accept the services proposal for the audit of the SSMU proposed by RSM Richter.

Moved by:

Shyam Patel, Vice-President (Finance and Operations)

Undersigned by:

Carol Fraser, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)

Emily Yee Clare, Vice-President (University Affairs)

Joël Pedneault, Vice-President (External)



Motion Regarding Student-Run Café in the William Shatner University Centre

Valid: February 1, 2012 – February 1, 2017

Whereas, the William Shatner University Centre is a space for McGill undergraduate students;
Whereas, there is presently no student-run café existing in the Shatner Building;
Whereas, there are many commercial food services on campus that do not necessarily provide students the opportunity to be directly involved in the day-to-day operation;
Whereas, the SSMU should commit itself to providing student jobs and increasing student participation within the Society;
Whereas, the SSMU should concern itself with providing as much space possible that directly impacts students;

Resolved, the SSMU continue to uphold the following mandates on developing a student-run café:

- Provide job opportunities to undergraduate students to increase student participation;
- Allow undergraduate students to partake in the management of the operation;
- Integrate sustainable initiatives by working in conjunction with the SSMU Environment Committee and Sustainability Coordinator

Resolved, the SSMU Student-Run Café Working Group prepares a Business Plan for the operation,

Resolved, the SSMU Student-Run Café Working Group carries forward activities to readily consult the undergraduate student population for feedback.

Moved by:

Shyam Patel, Vice-President (Finance and Operations)

Undersigned by:

Tyler Cannon, Music Representative

Tariq Khan, Engineering Representative

Zhizhen Qin, Science Representative



2012-2013 General Assembly Resolutions

October 15, 2012

Motion Regarding Installation of a Bouldering Wall

Valid: October 15, 2012 – October 15, 2017

Whereas, the SSMU is dedicated to providing essential and other cool services for students;
Whereas, the McGill Students Outdoors Club is likewise dedicated to these things, and more specifically to helping students get active and get outside;

Resolved, that the SSMU install a bouldering room in the William Shatner University Centre, accessible in price and location to all McGill students, for their physical advancement and between classes climbing pleasure.

Moved by:
Student-initiated motion



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Motion Regarding Renaming the SSMU Breakout Room

Valid: October 15, 2012 – October 15, 2017

Whereas, the Breakout Room in the McGill University Centre is a strange and uninteresting name for a space in the only student-controlled building on McGill downtown campus;
Whereas, the McGill University Centre is fondly known as the William Shatner University Centre, after a well-known actor who attended McGill, and the Lev Bukhman room is named for the founder of ASEQ, which oversees the SSMU Health and Dental Plan, both of whom are male;

Whereas, Madeleine Parent, a long-time union and gender equity activist who organized workers under Quebec premier Maurice Duplessis, and attended McGill for her undergraduate degree, passed away on March 12, 2012;

Resolved, that the SSMU rename the Breakout room the Madeleine Parent room.

Resolved, that a plaque honouring Madeline Parent's life be placed in the room.

Moved by:

Zachary Rosentzveig, Clubs and Services Representative

Robin Reid-Fraser, Vice-President (External)

Allison Cooper, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)

Haley Dinel, Vice-President (University Affairs)



Motion Regarding Ethical Investments

Note: This General Assembly lost quorum and therefore the following motions were presented in a consultative forum and are not valid in this form, as they were not passed at the General Assembly.

Whereas, the overwhelming majority of scientific bodies agree that carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions are contributing to rising average global temperature and climate change across the planet;

Whereas, examples of global climate change from 2012 include severe droughts in the United States, flooding in Alberta, and the lowest-ever summer ice cover in the Arctic;

Whereas, scientists predict that if the global average temperature rises by 2°C, the planet could experience increased extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and storms, reduced agricultural output, and thus rising food prices, and increased levels of illness and disease;

Whereas, the Tar Sands represent the fastest growing source of carbon emissions in Canada;

Whereas, SSMU was mandated by General Assembly in 2010 to discontinue owning stocks in natural resource extraction companies and financial institutions with a stake in the Tar Sands;

Whereas, the above mandate helped lead to the adoption of a Five Year Ethical Investment Plan for SSMU at Legislative Council on January 12, 2012;

Whereas, information regarding investment policies on the McGill website only mentions “social and ethical norms” and “an investment portfolio managed in a ‘socially responsible’ manner”, with no clear elaboration on what that means;

Whereas, McGill University also has investments in many companies, some involved in natural resource extraction;

Whereas, the Preamble to the SSMU Constitution states that “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;”

Resolved, that the SSMU adopt a position opposing the continued development of the Canadian Tar Sands;

Resolved, that the SSMU call on the federal government to undertake a full examination of the social, economic and environmental impacts of the Tar Sands project;

Resolved, that the SSMU lobby McGill University to divest from companies engaged in the Tar Sands, as well as other companies that have negative impacts on their social, political, economic and environmental surroundings;

Resolved, that the SSMU lobby McGill University to divest from all financial institutions that invest in or give loans to companies engaged in the Tar Sands, Students’ Society of McGill University;



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Resolved, that the SSMU lobby McGill University to cut all ties with companies engaged in the Tar Sands and financial institutions that fund the Tar Sands.

Moved by:

Robin Reid-Fraser, Vice-President (External)

Zachary Rosentzveig, Clubs and Services Representative

Allison Cooper, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)

Haley Dinel, Vice-President (University Affairs)



Motion Renewing Support for Accessible Education

Note: This motion is not valid in this form, as the General Assembly lost quorum and it was passed in a consultative forum.

Whereas, the Quebec Government has recently canceled the proposed tuition hike of \$1778 over 7 years;

Whereas, the Quebec Government has historically raised tuition for out-of-province and international students soon after the success of a student strike;

Whereas, many members of the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) come from outside

Quebec and already pay high tuition rates;

Whereas, the SSMU currently has a resolution "Motion Regarding Accessible Education" (reference: page 88 of the SSMU Resolution Manual) which expired September 26, 2012;

Resolved, that the SSMU continue to uphold the following mandates on accessibility to postsecondary education:

- Support for high-quality, universally accessible post-secondary education as a human right,
- Opposition to any mechanism or legislation that would permit a non-consensual increase in student fees for any student, whether Quebecer, Canadian, or international,
- Call for a public re-investment in post-secondary education from all levels of government,
- Call for the elimination of all financial barriers to a high-quality post-secondary education, and advocate for a progressive reduction of tuition fees for all students, including the eventual replacement of any and all ancillary and tuition fees with alternative methods of funding post-secondary education,
- Work with elements of the Quebec and Canadian student movements that share these goals

Resolved, that the SSMU specifically oppose any tuition hike proposed by the Quebec government that targets out-of-province or international students,

Resolved, that the External Affairs Committee, in conjunction with SSMU's Political Attaché Researcher and SSMU members at large, work to develop informational materials and policy proposals regarding out-of-province and international students, in line with SSMU's commitment to accessible education for all students.

Moved by:

Allison Cooper, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)

Robin Reid-Fraser, Vice-President (External)

Zachary Rosentzveig, Clubs and Services Representative

Haley Dinel, Vice-President (University Affairs)



Motion Regarding Opposition to Canadian Military Involvement in Iran

Note: This motion is not valid in this form, as the General Assembly lost quorum and it was passed in a consultative forum.

Whereas, on 7 September 2012 the government of Canada ordered the closing of the Canadian Embassy in Iran and expelled Iranian diplomats from Canada, indicating that the government of Canada will not seek a diplomatic resolution to conflict with Iran;

Whereas, the government of the United States has repeatedly stated it considers military intervention in Iran to be an option, and has recently participated in large-scale naval drills in the Persian Gulf;

Whereas, the number of nuclear warheads possessed by Iran is zero, and the number of nuclear warheads possessed by the United States is 5,113;

Whereas, universities, including McGill, conduct research for defense ministries and military contractors, sell many of the skills required for the administration of military action, allow military recruitment on campuses, and invest in companies that profit from armed conflict, and are in these ways complicit in war;

Whereas, hundreds of McGill students are directly from Iran, have family in Iran, and are adversely affected by sanctions and military action;

Whereas, the SSMU has historically opposed war and military intervention as a method for solving problems;

Whereas, the SSMU has an equity policy that explicitly opposes all forms of oppression, which include imperialism and colonialism;

Whereas, the SSMU has a resolution that registers its opposition to unethical investment and research in McGill;

Resolved, that the SSMU firmly oppose Canadian aggression towards Iran and oppose any military action that may be taken by Canada alone or in concert with other countries;

Resolved, that the SSMU oppose all ties between McGill University and any military efforts, including investments in military contractors and weapons manufacturers, weapons research, and research for government agencies that contributes to military action;

Resolved, that in the case of a military intervention in Iran, the SSMU provide information resources about the issue, as well as support to students who may experience stress, trauma or other difficulty as a result of military activity.

Resolved, that the SSMU create a policy opposing military activity and McGill's relationship with military industries by the end of the Winter 2013 semester, and that this resolution be in effect until that policy is adopted.

Moved by:
Robin Reid-Fraser, Vice-President (External)



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Moe Nasr, Senate Caucus Representative
Allison Cooper, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)
Haley Dinel, Vice-President (University Affairs)



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Motion Regarding Plan Nord

Note: This motion is not valid in this form, as the General Assembly lost quorum and it was passed in a consultative forum.

Resolved, that the SSMU actively oppose Plan Nord as a form of continued colonialism on unseeded indigenous lands;

Resolved, that the SSMU work to support indigenous communities in their resistance to Plan Nord by striving to form solidarity networks with these communities and others that already work with them;

Resolved, that the SSMU do this by allocating resources, holding educational events, producing informative materials, and pressuring the McGill administration to divest from mining (and other) companies profiting from Plan Nord.

Moved by:

Motion submitted from the floor



February 27, 2013

Note: This General Assembly did not meet quorum at any point and therefore the following motions were presented in a consultative forum and are not binding, as they were not passed at a General Assembly with the required number of members.

Motion Regarding Support for the Social Equity and Diversity Office (SEDE)

Note: This motion is not valid in this form, as the General Assembly did not reach quorum and it was passed in a consultative forum.

Whereas, the Social Equity and Diversity Office (SEDE), established in 2006, provides information, education and training to all areas of the University in order to cultivate a respectful, diverse and supportive campus;

Whereas, SEDE provides McGill students and staff with community-based learning experiences that foster leadership, encourage civic engagement, and promote a deeper understanding of diversity;

Whereas, SEDE offers essential resources and programs in Racial and Cultural Diversity, Aboriginal, and LGBTQ issues;

Whereas, SEDE has created many community projects that have involved undergraduate students including Community Action Toolkit, Community Engagement Day, Hidden Gems and Homework Zone;

Whereas, the three main recommendations of the Principal's Task Force on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement are:

McGill University will demonstrate a firm commitment to the recruitment, retention and professional development of diverse and excellent academic staff, administrative and support staff, and students, placing a strong emphasis on expanding the candidate pools and the pipelines of future candidates to accelerate progress in this regard.

Our definition of excellence at McGill shall be broadened to ensure that the indicators of excellence that we value and with which we measure ourselves correspond with our mission, including our broad commitment to positive societal impact.

Affirm a commitment to McGill's positive engagement with, and impact on, outside communities, locally, nationally and globally; build innovatively and progressively on the university's history of service to society and thereby expand opportunities for research, scholarship, and learning.

Whereas, the SSMU has a long-standing history of leadership on issues of Equity and Social Justice;

Whereas, Leadership, the third pillar of SSMU's commitment to its membership, as outlined in the SSMU constitution states that:

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



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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, the SSMU Equity Policy states that

6.5. The SSMU will actively support projects and policies that aim to end discrimination or to promote accessibility and inclusiveness in the McGill community. In accordance with this, the SSMU and its affiliated Clubs and Services will not affiliate or collaborate with organizations known to promote or engage in the previously mentioned discrimination or harassment;

Resolved, that the SSMU affirm SEDE as a valuable and integral organization on campus;

Resolved, that the SSMU collaborates with SEDE on initiatives related to equity, social justice and the community; this includes but is not limited to support for SEDE initiatives such as Community Engagement Day, collaboration between the SSMU Equity Committee and SEDE staff, collaboration in visioning for policy improvement in equity, and equity training for students and staff;

Resolved, that the SSMU, holds McGill accountable to its commitments to diversity and equity, as outlined in the Administrative Response to the Recommendations of the Principal's Task Force on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement;

Resolved, that the SSMU calls upon McGill University to maintain financial support for SEDE's ongoing work, and to provide permanent funding for SEDE's future endeavours.

Moved by:

Haley Dinel, Vice-President (University Affairs)

Josh Redel, President

Robin Reid-Fraser, Vice-President (External Affairs)

Allison Cooper, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)

Colleen Morawetz, Arts Representative

Shaina Agbayani, Equity Commissioner

Justin Koh, Equity Commissioner



Motion Regarding Support for Indigenous Peoples and Allies

Note: This motion is not valid in this form, as the General Assembly did not reach quorum and it was passed in a consultative forum.

Whereas, article 35 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms recognizes and affirms the aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada;

Whereas, the Supreme Court of Canada held that when there is real or constructive knowledge of potential Aboriginal rights or title while contemplating conduct that might adversely affect it, the Crown holds a duty to consult the rights holders;

Whereas, the manner of the consultation must be meaningful;

Whereas, Bill C-45 will adversely affect Aboriginal and Treaty Rights as recognized and affirmed by S.35;

Whereas, the Crown has not fulfilled its duty to consult regarding Bill C-45;

Whereas, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to which Canada is a signatory, protects the rights of First Nation and Inuit communities to their land, which may not be taken or put to uses without free and prior consent, and more specifically the rights of aboriginal peoples to maintain their cultural, spiritual, economic, and conservation practices on their traditional land;

Whereas, destructive economic practices take place on the land of native peoples across the world without their consent and without just compensation;

Whereas, destructive economic practices take place on the land of native peoples across Canada without their consent, including in Barriere Lake, northern Alberta, throughout Northern Quebec, and British Columbia;

Whereas, those practices include extracting and refining the tar sands, logging, mining, the damming of rivers, and transportation projects like pipelines, high-voltage electricity lines, and logging roads;

Whereas, the native peoples and their allies across Canada have joined together in the Idle No More movement to put an end to these practices;

Whereas, the national power balance with regard to First Nation, Inuit and Métis policy lies squarely in the federal government's favour, and this government has proven to be unsympathetic to dialogue on a "Nation-to-Nation" basis as prescribed by the 1991 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (Erasmus-Dusseault Commission);

Whereas, there is an ongoing campaign run by students and alumni calling on McGill University to divest its holdings in companies that lobby to do business on or do business on native land without the consent of the community;

Resolved, that the SSMU adopt a position in support of the Idle No More movement and in support of the struggles of the Society's First Nation and Inuit members and allies.

Resolved, that the SSMU support campaigns to lobby the McGill administration to identify and divest its holdings in companies that do business or that lobby to do business on native land without the permission of the communities there.



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Resolved, that the SSMU take reasonable steps to divest its holdings in those same companies, and that the FERC be mandated to research means by which this may be achieved.

Moved by:

Zachary Rosentzveig, Clubs and Services Representative

Claire Stewart-Kanigan, Arts Representative

Moe Nasr, Senate Caucus Representative

Colleen Morawetz, Arts Representative



Motion Regarding Conflict Minerals

Note: This motion is not valid in this form, as the General Assembly did not reach quorum and it was passed in a consultative forum.

Whereas, the SSMU is committed to ethical, socially responsible, and sustainable practices and leadership on campus;

Whereas, the International Rescue Committee has found more than 5.4 million civilians have been killed and countless more remain at risk as a consequence of attacks conducted by armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo;

Whereas, natural resources- in the case of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) the minerals of tungsten, tantalum, tin and gold- are cited by the UN, as well as scholars, to be a factor in the prolonging of civil conflict;

Whereas, UN Environmental Programme defines conflict minerals as “natural resources whose systematic exploitation and trade in a context of conflict contribute to, benefit from, or result in the commission of serious violations of human rights, violations of international humanitarian law or violations amounting to crimes under international law;”⁵

Whereas, armed groups in the DRC generate an estimated \$144 million each year by trading in conflict minerals;

Whereas, other university campuses including Ohio University, Duke University, St. Andrews University, University of Pennsylvania, Clark University, Emory University, University of Colorado Boulder and Stanford University have passed resolutions both within student unions and at the administrative level varying from a symbolic acknowledgement of the link between conflict minerals and violence, to an official conflict-mineral free purchasing policy;

Whereas, recent legislation signed into law in the United States (Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act of 2010) requires that companies submit an annual report to the Securities and Exchange Commission disclosing whether their products contain gold, tin, tantalum, or tungsten from the Congo or nearby areas;

Whereas, Canadian Members of Parliament are currently drafting a bill outlining a due diligence process for mineral verification to be brought to Parliament within the year;

Whereas, the students of the McGill Chapter of STAND Canada remain concerned with the matter that consumer electronics contain tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold- conflict minerals mined in the DRC;

Resolved, that the Financial Ethics Research Committee be mandated to consider the role of conflict minerals in current and future investments under their Five Year Ethical Investment Plan and include considerations of conflict minerals in its reports.

Moved by:

Élie Lubendo, First Year Council Representative

Colleen Morawetz, Arts Representative

Robin Reid-Fraser, Vice-President (External Affairs)

Zachary Rosentzveig, Clubs and Services Representative



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Sarah Southey, Residences Representative
Max Zidel, Senate Caucus Representative



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Motion Regarding Fair Tuition and Fees Charges

Note: This motion is not valid in this form, as the General Assembly did not reach quorum and it was passed in a consultative forum.

Whereas, the University of Toronto was found to be charging its students at least seven ancillary fees in violation of the Ontario regulations regarding tuition;

Whereas, many McGill courses often include fees that are not clear before taking the class;

Resolved, that the SSMU conduct a thorough review of all tuition and fees charged in all faculties or schools to which its members belong, to ensure that all charges comply with regulations internal to the University and with the laws and regulations of Quebec and Canada and to ensure that all charges are made known to students when registering for classes. A report documenting these findings shall be made public by March 1, 2014.

Moved by:

Motion submitted from the floor



2013-2014 General Assembly Resolutions

October 9, 2013

Note: This General Assembly did not meet quorum at any point and therefore the following motions were presented in a consultative forum and are not binding, as they were not passed at a General Assembly with the required number of members.

Motion Regarding the Proposed Quebec Charter of Values

Note: This motion is not valid in this form, as the General Assembly did not reach quorum and it was passed in a consultative forum.

Whereas, the SSMU strives to “strengthen the educational, cultural, environment, political and social conditions of our membership”¹ and is committed to “demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, [and] social justice,”²

Whereas, the proposed Quebec Charter of Values stands to compromise the educational, cultural, political, and social conditions of SSMU members,

Whereas, the proposed Quebec Charter of Values stands to compromise the “fundamental freedoms, including freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, freedom of opinion, [and] freedom of expression”³ protected by the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms,

Whereas, as the “social voice of the undergraduate and professional students of McGill” and an organization bound to “act in the best interests of its membership as a whole,”⁴ it is appropriate that the SSMU adopt stances regarding legislation that stand to directly affect its membership, such as the Quebec Charter of Values,

Be it Resolved, that the SSMU adopt a stance of opposition to the proposed Quebec Charter of Values.

Be it Resolved, that the SSMU draft a letter in opposition to the proposed Quebec Charter of Values to be sent to:

- Premier Pauline Marois
- Principal Suzanne Fortier
- Media outlets including, but not limited to, La Presse, The Gazette, Le Devoir, and CBC Montreal
- The SSMU membership via the SSMU listserv

Be it resolved, that an Ad-hoc Campaigns Committee of SSMU Legislative Council⁵ in opposition to the proposed Quebec Charter of Values be struck.

Moved by:
Motion submitted by petition



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Appendix

¹ "The Constitution of the Students' Society of McGill University," SSMU, last modified April 11, 2012, <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Constitution-as-of-April-17-2012.pgf>, p.2.

² SSMU, p.3.

³ "Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms," c. 1 s. 3, accessed September 23, 2013, http://www2.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca/dynamicSearch/telecharge.php?type=2&file=/C_12/C12_A.html.

⁴ SSMU, p.2.

⁵ in accordance with the SSMU Legislative Council Committee Terms of Reference.



November 13, 2013

Motion Regarding the Nomination of Councillors to the SSMU Board of Directors

Valid: November 13, 2013 – November 13, 2018

Whereas, the following nominations were approved at the September 26th council meeting,
Whereas, the decision needs to be approved by members at-large during a General Assembly,

Be it resolved, that the following members of Council be appointed to the Board of Directors:

Joey Shea
Samuel Harris
Tyler Hofmeister
Stefan Fong
Brian Farnan
Claire Stewart-Kanigan
Benjamin Reedijk
David Benrimoh
Devin Bissky-Dziadyk
Zachary Rosentzveig
Catherine Chen
Kareem Ibrahim
Sue Jeong

Moved by:

Katie Larson, President
Joey Shea, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Samuel Harris, Vice-President (External Affairs)
Stefan Fong, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)



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Motion Regarding the Nomination of the Auditor for the Fiscal Year of 2014

Valid: November 13, 2013 – November 13, 2018

Whereas, the audited financial statements prepared by RSM Richter were approved at the September 26th council meeting,

Whereas, the decision for auditor needs to be approved by members at-large during a General Assembly,

Be it Resolved, that RSM Richter is chosen as the Auditor for the 2014 fiscal year.

Moved by:

Katie Larson, President

Tyler Hofmeister, Vice-President (Finance and Operations)

Joey Shea, Vice-President (University Affairs)

Stefan Fong, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)



February 5, 2014

Motion Regarding Inclusion of Academic Assessment Rights on Course Outlines

Valid: February 5, 2014 – February 5, 2019

Whereas, the University Student Assessment Policy¹ guarantees that:

“6.1.3 The maximum weight of a final examination in a regularly scheduled Course shall be no more than 75% of the Course Grade. Exceptions shall be made where students have been offered the choice in advance to write a final examination worth more than 75% of the Course grade.

6.1.4 Should written examinations in a regularly scheduled Course contribute 50% or more to the Course grade, one of the examinations shall be held during the final examination period, except for the Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry.” (emphasis added)

Whereas, student testimony indicates that this policy is not consistently adhered to, *Whereas*, guidelines exist within the Student Handbook regarding information that must be included on course outlines, such as the right to submit work in English or French (see Appendix 1),

Whereas, increased visibility of the rights outlined in Sections 6.1.3 and 6.1.4 to both professors and students may support compliance with said rights,

Resolved, that the SSMU support the inclusion of an abbreviated outline of student academic rights with an emphasis on Sections 6.1.3 and 6.1.4 of the University Student Assessment Policy on course outlines.

Resolved, that the SSMU support the amendment of section 10.2 of the Student Handbook to include a sub-point suggesting the inclusion of an abbreviated outline of student academic rights with an emphasis on Sections 6.1.3 and 6.1.4 of the University Student Assessment Policy.

Moved by:

Claire Stewart-Kanigan, Arts Senator
Yasmeen Gholmieh, Arts Senator
Alvin Kuate Defo, Science Senator
Katie Larson, President

¹ http://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/sites/mcgill.ca.secretariat/files/university_student_assessment_policy_0.pdf.

Appendix 1

“10.2 Every instructor shall provide students during the first week of lectures with a written course outline.



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This information should include, where appropriate:

- (a) A description of the topics to be considered in the course,
- (b) A list of required and recommended readings and other materials,
- (c) A description of the means of evaluation to be used in the course,
- (d) A statement regarding the right of every student to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded (not applicable to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives).
- (e) The instructor's office hours for students, office location and telephone number for office appointments."



Motion Regarding Timely Distribution of Course Information

Valid: February 5, 2014 – February 5, 2019

Whereas, Sustainability at SSMU is codified in the SSMU Sustainability Policy;

Whereas, until the Fall of 2013, the SSMU had a full-time Sustainability Coordinator position that was created through a motion of Council in 2011;

Whereas, the SSMU currently has two Environment Commissioners, one Green Events Coordinator, and one Green Building Coordinator who work under the President to further the SSMU's role as a leader in sustainability efforts on campus;

Whereas, in addition to Environmental Sustainability, the SSMU also works toward Social and Economic Sustainability;

Whereas, the SSMU Legislative Council struck an Ad-hoc committee on Sustainability at SSMU during the Fall of 2013, charged with making a recommendation on the future institutionalization of SSMU sustainability and channels through which this recommendation can be recognized;

Resolved, the Ad-hoc Committee on Sustainability, in consultation with various sustainability stakeholders at McGill, make an actionable recommendation on the future of institutional sustainability to Council by the end of the Winter 2014 term;

Resolved, the President, along with the Executive Committee will undertake the necessary work to explore the feasibility of the recommendation and the steps for implementation;

Resolved, the 2014-2015 SSMU Executive Committee gives an updated report to the Fall 2014 General Assembly on the progress of the Winter 2013 recommendation and the projected outcomes of the review.

Moved by:

Katie Larson, President

Joey Shea, Vice-President (University Affairs)

Brian Farnan, Vice-President (Internal)

Sarah Southey, Science Representative to Council



Motion Regarding the Guarantee of Freedom of Dress in the SSMU Building

Note: Quorum was lost when this motion was read, so it passed in a consultative forum only, and therefore is not a valid and binding motion. It is recorded here merely for future reference.

Whereas, Section 2 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees the right of free expression, regardless of the content of that expression, to the exception of violence and the threats of acts of violence;

Whereas, the choice of dress is intrinsically tied to the notion of free speech and free expression;

Whereas, limitations on outward appearance contribute to a loss of individual or cultural identity;
Whereas, Article 2.5 of the Equity Policy adopted by the Student Society of McGill University provides specific guidelines for what warrants condemnation of oppressive behavior;

Be it resolved, that the right of freedom of dress shall not be infringed upon or denied on the SSMU grounds, inside SSMU facilities or at events organized through the SSMU;

Be it further resolved, that individual garments may be deemed inequitable and thusly banned based on the explicit content of their images or text, and this shall be determined on a case-by-case basis based on the SSMU Equity Policy;

Be it further resolved, that any standing bans on student groups' choice of dress be overturned immediately.

Moved by:
Motion moved by petition



2014-2015 General Assembly Resolutions

October 22, 2014

Motion Regarding Nominations to the Board of Directors

Valid: October 22, 2014 – October 22, 2019

Whereas, the SSMU requires a Board of Directors to approve decisions of the Legislative Council;

Whereas, the members of the Board of Directors must be over the age of 18, and Canadian citizens;

Be it resolved, that the following individuals be nominated to the SSMU Board of Directors:

Courtney Ayukawa – President
Claire Stewart-Kanigan – Vice-President (University Affairs)
Amina Moustaqim-Barrette - Vice-President (External)
Daniel Chaim – Vice-President (Internal)
Kathleen Bradley - Vice-President (Finance and Operations)
Stefan Fong – Vice-President (Clubs and Services)
Farzan Subhani – Clubs Representative
Kareem Ibrahim – Senate Caucus Representative
Joshua Chin – Medicine Representative
Anikke Rioux – Engineering Representative
Patrick Dunbar-Lavoie – Arts Representative
Zachariah Houston – Science Representative
Sukhmeet Rohan Sachal – Clubs Representative
Nancy Zhang – Music Representative
Alexander Kpeglo-Hennessy – Arts Representative

Moved by:
Legislative Council



Motion Regarding Action on Climate Change

Valid: October 22, 2014 – October 22, 2019

Whereas, the Society reaffirms, in accordance with the strong principles of justice and equity laid out in clauses VI to VIII of the Society's Constitution, the commitment of the Students' Society of McGill University to the implementation of socially responsible investment strategies by the SSMU and by McGill University, and in particular its belief that both bodies should divest their holdings in companies involved in the Canadian Tar Sands, in fossil fuel extraction, production, or distribution, or that do business or lobby to do business on Indigenous territory without the full consent of the communities there;

Whereas, the SSMU has had mandates for a McGill Free from Fossil Fuels, adopted January 24, 2013, for Support for Indigenous Peoples and Allies, adopted January 24, 2013, for Ethical Investments at McGill, adopted November 1, 2012, and for a Greener McGill, adopted February 21, 2013, for Climate Justice at McGill, adopted September 25, 2014;

Whereas, student unions across Quebec have mandates to lobby the government on the issue of climate change and to oppose projected pipeline projects;

Whereas, the Peoples' Climate March on September 21, 2014 was the largest climate march in history, bringing the issue of climate change to the forefront¹;

Whereas, TransCanada will soon be looking for a permit for the Energy East Pipeline project, a pipeline set to stretch 4,600-kilometres and carry 1.1-million barrels of crude oil per day from the Alberta's tar sands to Manitoba, Eastern Ontario, Québec and New Brunswick⁴;

Whereas, this proposed pipeline project would act as one of the single greatest barriers to Canada transitioning to an alternative energy economy²;

Whereas, tar sands development has resulted in devastating social impacts and tens of thousands of treaty rights violations³;

Whereas, the student coalition Étudiant(e)s Contre les Oléoducs (ÉCO) demands that pipeline projects in Quebec be blocked, that fossil fuels exploration and extraction projects on the territory of Quebec be terminated, and that Indigenous sovereignty over their territories, and their veto power over resource extraction projects, be recognized;

Whereas, ÉCO is only in its first month of inception and already represents more than 70, 000 students across the province of Quebec;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU join the student coalition Étudiant(e)s Contre les Oléoducs (ÉCO).

Be it resolved, that the VP (External Affairs) bring a policy regarding action on climate change to SSMU Legislative Council in the Winter 2015 term.

Moved by:

Amina Moustaqim-Barrette, Vice-President (External Affairs)

Emilie Boutin, Education Representative

Nancy Zhang, Music Representative

Lola Baraldi, Arts Representative



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1. Visser, Nick. "Hundreds Of Thousands Turn Out For People's Climate March In New York City." *The Huffington Post*. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 21 Sept. 2014. Web. 14 Oct. 2014.< http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/21/peoples-climate-march_n_5857902.html>
2. Flanagan, Erin, and Clare Demerse. "Climate Implications of the Proposed Energy East Pipeline." *Pembina Institute*. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Oct. 2014. <http://www.pembina.org/reports/energy-east-climate-implications.pdf>
3. Thomas-Muller, Clayton. "Standing Our Sacred Ground-First Nations, Tribal Leaders & Land Owners Send Message To Canada, Stop Tar Sands At The Source." *Idle No More*. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Oct. 2014.< http://www.idlenomore.ca/standing_our_sacred_ground>
4. "Energy East Pipeline Project." *TransCanada Corporation*. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 Oct. 2014.< <http://www.transcanada.com/energy-east-pipeline.html>>



Motion Regarding Support of a Campus Free from Harmful Military Technology Development

Valid: October 22, 2014 – October 22, 2019

Whereas, the SSMU Constitution commits the SSMU “to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, [and] social justice”;¹

Whereas, the development of harmful military technology, including drones and thermobaric explosives, occurs on McGill campus (see Appendix 1);

Whereas, McGill students have historically taken action against the development of harmful military technology on campus, including adopting a SSMU Policy on Transparency in Military Research² (2008-2013); adopting a motion to “oppose all ties between McGill University and any military efforts, including investments in military contractors and weapons manufacturers, weapons research, and research for government agencies that contributes to military action”³ (2012-2013), and effecting the creation of a clause in 1988 in the Regulation on the Conduct of Research requiring military agency-funded research to indicate “whether [the] research has direct harmful consequences”⁴ before undergoing review for approval;

Whereas, the aforementioned clause was removed from the Regulation in 2009 during its previous triennial review, leaving no mention of research applications in the Regulation aside from an unelaborated note on “social responsibility”⁵ in the preamble;

Whereas, McGill has remained non-transparent about the extent and nature of military-funded research on campus, including taking McGill students to court regarding Access to Information requests seeking disclosure of these funding relationships;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU renew its stance of opposition to the development of harmful military technology on campus;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU support campaigns opposing the development of harmful military technology on campus through the office of the Vice-President (External Affairs) as well as support campaigns that mobilize in solidarity with the people affected by the use of military technology.

Moved by:

Motion moved by petition

¹ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/SSMU-Constitution-English-2013-11-15.pdf>

² <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/SSMU-Policy-Book.pdf>

³ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/GA-Motion-Opposition-to-Canadian-Military-Involvement-in-Iran-2012-10-15.pdf>

⁴ http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2010/03/speaking_out_against_military_research_since_the_80s/

⁵ <https://www.mcgill.ca/files/secretariat/Conduct-of-Research-Regulation-on.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/mcgill-asks-for-permission-to-ignore-access-to-information-requests/article7775571/> ; <http://blogs.canoe.ca/davidakin/journalism/mcgill-university-seeks-to-ban-its-own-student-journos-from-filing-ati-requests-on-it/> ; <http://demilitarizemcgill.com/access-information/released-documents/>



Appendix 1

These projects include, but are not limited to:

The **McGill Aerospace Mechatronics Lab** currently holds contracts with the Department of National Defence for purposes of developing “unmanned ground, air, and marine vehicles ... and [building] 3D world representation models of the urban battle space to improve soldier situational awareness”⁷ (\$380,000 contract⁸), and developing a “Multi Degree-of-Freedom Robot,”⁹ an unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) to “[support] military missions in complex operating environments”¹⁰ (\$245,000 contract¹¹).

Members of **McGill's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering** worked on missile guidance systems technology from 1999 to at least 2010 in collaboration with Lockheed Martin—a multi-billion dollar guided missile system and military technology manufacturer—Technion military researchers in Israel, and Defence Research and Development Canada (\$230,600 funding from DRDC¹²).

The **Shockwave Physics Group** (SWPG) conducts research in collaboration with the Canadian and US military at McGill with McGill professors on thermobaric explosives. The SWPG also conducts research on air-breathing propulsion funded by Defence Research and Development Canada.¹³ Projects titles include “Measurement of the Limit of Shock Precompression and Induction Delay Time of Liquid Explosives”¹⁴ (2001) for DRDC, “Near-Field Impulse Effects from Detonation of Heterogeneous Explosives”¹⁵ (2001), and “Interaction of a blast wave with a metalized explosive fireball”¹⁶ (2010).

See <http://demilitarizemcgill.com/military-research/> for further information.

⁷ https://www.scribd.com/fullscreen/239795292?access_key=key-WHO1liHNHSxCsJRu1I2O&allow_share=true&escape=false&show_recommendations=false&view_mode=scroll p.15

⁸ <http://demilitarizemcgill.com/military-research/aerospace-mechatronics-lab/>

⁹ <https://www.scribd.com/doc/239795238/McGill-DRDC-Degree-of-Freedom-Robot>

¹⁰ <https://www.scribd.com/doc/239795238/McGill-DRDC-Degree-of-Freedom-Robot-p.3>

¹¹ <http://demilitarizemcgill.com/military-research/aerospace-mechatronics-lab/>

¹² <http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/D1-14-2000E.pdf>

¹³ <http://demilitarizemcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/HigginsGoroshin-Powdered-MetalHypersonic-Ramjets-2001.pdf> ; <http://people.mcgill.ca/files/andrew.higgins/cv.andrew.higgins.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://people.mcgill.ca/files/andrew.higgins/cv.andrew.higgins.pdf>

¹⁵ <http://www.mcgill.ca/mecheng/fr/node/140>

¹⁶ <http://www.mcgill.ca/mecheng/fr/node/1164>



Motion Regarding Solidarity Against Austerity

Valid: October 22, 2014 – October 22, 2019

Whereas, austerity measures refer to official actions taken by the government to reduce its budget deficit by making cuts to the public sector¹;

Whereas, the Couillard government has announced an austerity budget and cuts of approximately \$172 million dollars to University funding²;

Whereas, this translates to around \$14 million dollars in cuts to McGill University in 2014-2015, in addition to the university's \$7 million dollar deficit³;

Whereas, McGill University has failed to effectively communicate this information to the McGill community and has remained compliant with these cuts;

Whereas, student associations and federations across Quebec are planning mass demonstrations and strikes against austerity measures, and organizing "Spring 2015" committees⁴;

Whereas, "higher education is a public good, not a private gain"⁵;

Whereas, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) has previously had a Policy Regarding Accessible Education (2007) and a Motion Regarding Renewing Support for Accessible Education (2012);

Be it resolved, that the SSMU take a stance on and publicly denounce the provincial government's austerity measures against McGill University and other post-secondary institutions;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU to inform and mobilize its members to participate in demonstrations in opposition to austerity measures by working with

- a) Student unions
- b) Student federations;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU encourage its members to attend open forum sessions hosted by Provost Anthony Masi on October 27, 2014 regarding cuts to the university budget.

Moved by:

Amina Moustaqim-Barrette, Vice-President (External)

Nancy Zhang, Music Representative

Rohan Sachal, Clubs Representative

Lexi Michaud, First Year Council Representative

Yasmine Nadifi, PTOT Representative

¹ <http://lexicon.ft.com/Term?term=austerity-measure>

² <http://www.montrealgazette.com/More+budget+cuts+coming+universities+report/10206089/story.html>

³ <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2014/10/mcgill-ends-financial-year-with-15-million-surplus/>

⁴ <http://printemps2015.org/>



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⁵http://www.researchgate.net/publication/226235977_Beyond_Private_Gain_The_Public_Benefits_of_Higher_Education



March 15, 2015

Motion Regarding the Nomination of the Auditor for the Fiscal Year of 2015

Valid: March 15, 2015 – March 15, 2020

Whereas, the audited financial statements prepared by RSM Richter were approved in the September Legislative Council meeting;
Whereas, the decision for an auditor needs to be approved by members at-large during a General Assembly;

Be it resolved, that RSM Richter is chosen as the Auditor for the 2015 fiscal year.

Moved by:

Courtney Ayukawa, President

Amina Moustaqim-Barrette, Vice-President (External)

Kathleen Bradley, Vice-President (Finance and Operations)

Claire Stewart-Kanigan, Vice-President (University Affairs)



Motion Regarding Unpaid Internships

Valid: March 15, 2015 – March 15, 2020

Whereas, in Canada, almost one in four youth is unemployed, underemployed, or has given up looking for work¹;

Whereas, unpaid internships exacerbate social inequalities by excluding from many prestigious and meaningful fields those students who cannot afford to work for free²;

Whereas, unpaid internships are already illegal in most situations in numerous jurisdictions across Canada, but continue to exist because of lax enforcement³;

Whereas, unpaid internships risk eliminating entry-level jobs and lowering starting wages for all, but particularly young workers⁴;

Whereas, recent 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 experience⁵;

Whereas, profit-maximizing private companies and austerity-focused governments have strong incentives to commit wage theft wherever possible;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU pressure McGill University to immediately and permanently stop posting, circulating, promoting, crediting, or otherwise accepting the legitimacy of all internships that are illegal under applicable employment laws;

Be it 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;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU advocate for the elimination or reduction of tuition fees charged by McGill University for credits obtained in exchange for completing an internship, in recognition of the fact that students should not pay McGill University in order to work for a third party, however, this does not prevent SSMU from agreeing to a reasonable administrative fee charged to students to offset the limited supervisory costs associated with granting credits for off-campus internships;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU pressure all McGill programs and offices related to career development to find, promote, circulate, and encourage internships that pay student workers a fair wage for work performed and that obey all applicable employment laws;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU issue a statement through its online communication channels (including the SSMU website, Facebook page, and Twitter account) condemning unpaid internships and forcefully asking employers in all fields to provide quality paid internships;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU review, under the leadership of the VP University Affairs, current internship possibilities offered on campus, including those offered by the Faculty of Arts



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Internship Office, to identify and work with stakeholders to increase the number of quality paid internships available to McGill students;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU cooperate, under the leadership of the VP External, with other student associations and advocacy groups, provincially and federally, in promoting paid internships and the fair treatment of student workers;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU report back to the McGill undergraduate community in September 2015 about what strategy the SSMU foresees taking, and any other related developments in implementing this motion;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU require as a condition for a new SSMU club or service, that the student group not promote, recruit for, or facilitate any internships that contravene applicable employment laws;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU make it possible for a complaint mechanisms to be put into place to ensure compliance with the applicable employment laws;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU inform clubs and services of employment laws through the Clubs and Services Listserv as well as through mandatory Club Workshops.

Moved by:

The New Democratic Party of McGill University (NDP-McGill)

Chloe Rourke, Senate Caucus Representative

Alexander Kpeglo-Hennessy, Arts Representative

Anikke Rioux, Engineering Representative

Zachariah Houston, Science Representative

Patrick Dunbar-Lavoie, Arts Representative

Lola Baraldi, Arts Representative

David Benrimoh, Senate Caucus Representative

Eddie Lin, Arts Representative

Kareem Ibrahim, Senate Caucus Representative

Sources

¹"Youth Unemployment and Underemployment in Canada," Canadian Teachers' Federation. 2014. Web. 02 Mar. 2015. <http://www.ctf-fce.ca/Research-Library/Brief-Youth-Unemployment.pdf>

²"Why Unpaid Internships Mean Inequality of Opportunity," Macleans. 2013. Web. 02 Mar. 2015.

<http://www.macleans.ca/economy/business/why-unpaid-internships-means-inequality-of-opportunity/>

³"What is the law?" Canadian Interns Association. 2015. Web. 02 Mar. 2015. <http://www.internassociation.ca/what-is-the-law/>

⁴Oved, Marco Chown. "Unpaid internships: the most precarious work of all." The Toronto Star. 05 Mar. 2013. Web. 02 Mar 2015. http://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2013/03/05/unpaid_internships_the_most_precarious_work_of_all.html

⁵"Class of 2013: Paid Interns Outpace Unpaid Peers in Job Offers, Salaries." National Association of Colleges and Employers. 2013. Web. 02 Mar. 2015. <http://www.naceweb.org/s05292013/paid-unpaidinterns-job-offer.aspx>



Motion Regarding the SSMU's Policy on Accessible Education

Note: Quorum was lost when this motion was read, so it passed in a consultative forum only, and therefore is not a valid and binding motion. It is recorded here merely for future reference.

Whereas, the Couillard government has imposed austerity measures and cuts of approximately \$205 million dollars to University funding;

Whereas, this translates to around more than \$20 million dollars in cuts to McGill University alone;

Whereas, the Quebec government increased French student tuition this year by around 180% (from \$2300 to \$6600);

Whereas, in 2008 McGill University successfully lobbied the Québec government for a deregulation of tuition fees for six programs (Applied Science, Mathematics, Engineering, Computer Sciences, Management, and Law);

Whereas, the Politique québécoise de financement des universités released this year and similarly calls for deregulation of out-of-province and international tuition in all programs and at all levels;

Whereas, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) has previously had a Policy Regarding Accessible Education (2007) and a Motion Regarding Renewing Support for Accessible Education (2012);

Resolved, that the SSMU adopt the following policy regarding accessibility to postsecondary education:

- Support for high-quality, universally accessible post-secondary education as a human right,
- Opposition to any mechanism or legislation that would permit a non-consensual increase in student fees for any student, whether Quebecker, Canadian, or international,
- Call for a public re-investment in post-secondary education from all levels of government,
- Call for the elimination of all financial barriers to a high-quality post-secondary education, and advocate for a progressive reduction of tuition fees for all students, including the eventual replacement of any and all ancillary and tuition fees with alternative methods of funding post-secondary education,
- Work with elements of the Quebec and Canadian student movements that share these goals

Be it resolved, that the SSMU specifically oppose any mechanism to raise tuition for any and all of its members;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU mobilize its members against the provincial austerity measures.

Moved by:

Amina Moustaqim-Barrette, Vice-President (External Affairs)



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Kareem Ibrahim, Senate Caucus Representative

Nancy Zhang, Music Representative

Patrick Dunbar-Lavoie, Arts Representative



2015-2016 General Assembly Resolutions

November 9, 2015

No Resolutions Made



2015-2016 General Assembly Resolutions

February 22, 2016

Motion Regarding the Nominations to the Board of Directors

WHEREAS, the SSMU requires a Board of Directors to approve decisions of the Legislative Council;

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Directors must be over the age of 18 and Canadian citizens;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the following individuals be nominated to the SSMU Board of directors:

Adam Templer, Arts Representative

Dushan Tripp, Club Representative

Emily Boytinck, VP (External Affairs)

Erin Sobat, Senate Caucus Representative

Joshua Chin, Medicine Representative

Kahli-Ann Douglas, Services Representative

Sean Taylor, Science Representative

Moved By,

Kareem Ibrahim, President

Kimber Bialik, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)

Zacheriah Houston, Vice-President (Finance and Operations)



Motion Regarding the Nomination of the Auditor for the Year Ending May 31, 2016

WHEREAS, Richter LLP has been the auditor of the SSMU since the 2009 fiscal year¹;

WHEREAS, the appointment of the auditor must be approved by the SSMU membership at a General Assembly²;

WHEREAS, Fuller Landau LLP/SENCRL is a mid-sized audit, tax, and advisory firm;

WHEREAS, Fuller Landau has extensive experience working with not for profit organizations and student associations, including the Science Undergraduate Society, the Arts Undergraduate Society, and the Management Undergraduate Society;

WHEREAS, the Vice-President (Finance and Operations) has received very positive feedback regarding Fuller Landau from other Student Associations at McGill;

WHEREAS, appointing Fuller Landau as the auditor will save the Society approximately 15% on audit fees annually;

WHEREAS, the Vice-President (Finance and Operations), the Comptroller [i.e., managing accountant], and the General Manager compared Richter, Fuller Landau, and a third firm, and are recommending that the Society appoint Fuller Landau as the auditor;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT Fuller Landau LLP be appointed as the Society's auditor for the year ending May 31, 2016.

Moved by:

Zacheriah Houston, Vice-President (Finance and Operations)

Kimber Bialik, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)

Adam Templer, Arts Representative

Kareem Ibrahim, President

¹ [SSMU Financial Statements](#)

² Companies Act, 113(1)



Motion Regarding Support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement

WHEREAS, the SSMU Constitution states that “the SSMU commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights [and] social justice,”³ and the SSMU Equity Policy states that “the SSMU – an organization working with individuals, in groups, within organizations, and across a wide social and political context – shall promote a functional and anti-oppressive environment”⁴;

WHEREAS, in 2005, over 170 Palestinian civil society organizations called for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel, and called “upon international civil society organizations and people of conscience all over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era”⁵;

WHEREAS, this call for BDS states that such campaigns are to remain in place “until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people’s inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with the precepts of international law by:

1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands captured in 1967 and dismantling the Wall;
2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and
3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194”;

WHEREAS McGill holds investments in Mizrahi-Tefahot Bank,⁶ which operates branches in illegal Israeli settlements and provides mortgages to homebuyers and financial services to local authorities, and finances construction on settlements internationally recognized as illegal⁷;

WHEREAS, McGill holds investments in L-3 Communications,⁸ a company that supplied equipment to Israeli checkpoints and border crossings into Gaza, provided engines for Israeli tanks, and in collaboration with Elbit Systems assembled the Hermes 900 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) used in Operation Protective Edge, in which Palestinians were targeted by Israeli tank fire and air strikes⁹;

WHEREAS, McGill holds investments in Re/Max,¹⁰ which sells real estate in Israel's illegal settlements, thereby facilitating and profiting from the transfer of Israeli citizens into settlements in occupied Palestinian territory, which violates article 49 of the Fourth Geneva convention¹¹;

³ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/SSMU-Constitution-2015-02-21-EN.pdf>

⁴ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Equity-Policy-Book-2014-01-13.pdf>

⁵ <http://bdsmovement.net/call>

⁶ https://secureweb.mcgill.ca/investments/files/investments/nna_equity_ok_0.pdf

⁷ <http://whoprofits.org/company/mizrahi-tefahot-bank>

⁸ https://secureweb.mcgill.ca/investments/files/investments/u.s._equity_ok_0.pdf

⁹ <http://whoprofits.org/company/l-3-communications>

¹⁰ https://secureweb.mcgill.ca/investments/files/investments/u.s._equity_ok_0.pdf



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WHEREAS, similar measures have been taken by organizations including the United Methodist Church,¹² the Presbyterian Church (USA),¹³ the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (Ontario), the Federation nationale des enseignantes et des enseignants du Québec,¹⁴ and student unions at Concordia University,¹⁵ York University,¹⁶ Carleton University,¹⁷ University of California Los Angeles (UCLA),¹⁸ Stanford University,¹⁹ Northwestern University,²⁰ and DePaul University²¹;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU support campaigns associated with the BDS movement through the office of the VP External, including the campaign to divest from corporations complicit in the occupation of the Palestinian territories;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU President lobby the McGill Board of Governors in support of BDS campaigns by:

- Reading a statement in support of divestment from companies profiting from violations of Palestinian human rights at all Board of Governors meetings;
- Recommending no less than the complete divestment of holdings in such companies and implementation of an investment screen that would prevent future investments in similar companies.

Moved by Petition

¹¹ <http://whoprofits.org/company/remax-israel-impact-property-developers>

¹² <http://bdsmovement.net/2012/united-methodists-call-for-boycott-of-products-made-by-israeli-companies-operating-in-occupied-palestinian-territories-8999>

¹³ <http://www.timesofisrael.com/presbyterian-church-votes-in-favor-of-divesting-from-israel/>

¹⁴ <http://rabble.ca/news/2009/09/bds-movement-growing-labour-solidarity-palestine>

¹⁵ <http://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/concordia-undergrad-students-vote-in-favour-of-israel-boycott>

¹⁶ <http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/campus-notes/2013/03/york-federation-students-pass-divestment-resolution-against-isra>

¹⁷ <https://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/canadian-first-carleton-university-students-pass-israel-occupation-divestment>

¹⁸ <http://www.sjpb Bruins.com/divest.html>

¹⁹ <http://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Standford-University-student-senate-passes-Israel-divestment-resolution-391403>

²⁰ <http://www.haaretz.com/world-news/1.643256>

²¹ http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-05-25/news/chi-depaul-students-israel-divestment-20140525_1_depaul-president-depaul-university-divestment



Motion Regarding the Procurement of Products Containing Conflict Minerals by SSMU

WHEREAS, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) has a clear commitment to sustainable and ethical practices^{22 23 24};

WHEREAS, the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo) has been the source of ongoing violence for decades, particularly heightened since the Rwandan genocide²⁵;

WHEREAS, the illegal exploitation of four minerals in particular - tin, tungsten, tantalum, and gold (3TG) - has funded armed violence in the eastern Congo²⁶;

WHEREAS, a study found that 2008 armed groups were estimated to have earned \$185 million from the conflicts mineral trade²⁷;

WHEREAS, the electronics industry is a primary purchaser of conflict minerals and has the power to disrupt the funding to armed groups⁶;

WHEREAS, in 2014, nearly three quarters of mines (74%) in tin, tantalum, and tungsten mines in surveyed locations were reported to no longer be controlled by armed groups²⁸;

WHEREAS, McGill requires that its main electronics providers be part of the Electronics Industry Citizenship Coalition, implying that they also have access to be part of the Conflict Sourcing Initiative, which is an initiative that offers resources for companies to address conflict minerals in their supply chain.²⁹;

WHEREAS, the Conflict-Free Campus Initiative is a student-led non-profit branch of the Enough Project that aims to support peace in Congo by encouraging companies to source conflict-free minerals from Congo and the region³⁰;

WHEREAS, the Conflict-Free Campus Initiative and the Enough Project, a non-profit organization, offers information regarding the steps that companies are taking to end their use of conflict minerals³¹;

²² [SSMU Sustainability Policy](#)

²³ [SSMU Ethical Investment Plan](#)

²⁴ [SSMU Purchasing Policy](#)

²⁵ [BBC Democratic Republic of Congo- country profile](#)

²⁶ [Why Congo?, Conflict Free Campus Initiative](#)

²⁷ [Why Congo?, Conflict Free Campus Initiative](#)

²⁸ [IPIS Research](#)

²⁹ [Conflict Free Sourcing Initiative](#)

³⁰ [Conflict Free Campus](#)

³¹ [Raise Hope for Congo](#)



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WHEREAS, the Financial Ethics Research Committee (FERC) is a Committee of the SSMU Legislative Council responsible for reviewing the ethical nature of the Society's transactions;

WHEREAS, the FERC is currently developing a Purchasing Policy, and associated Supplier Database, to outline what suppliers are acceptable for the Society to purchase from;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU declare itself as a part of the Conflict-Free Campus Initiative;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU FERC update its purchasing guidelines to include consideration of the extent to which electronics suppliers are making efforts to source conflict-free minerals from Congo for their products;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the FERC update the Ethical Investment Plan to include the use of conflict minerals as a negative factor for consideration and to include the use of conflict-free minerals from the Congo as a positive factor for consideration (referred to as "negative screens" and "positive screens", respectively, in the Ethical Investment Plan);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT in determining whether a supplier is acceptable, the Financial Ethics Research Committee consider the efforts that the supplier has made to source conflict-free minerals from Congo for its products, by consulting resources such as the supplier's policies and SEC filings where applicable ^{32 33 34};

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU call on electronic companies and other industries to implement the necessary steps to remove conflict minerals from their supply chain;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU issue a statement on its website supporting the sourcing of conflict-free minerals from Congo, and that this statement include what actions the SSMU will take to support this fight;

Moved by:

Member from the Faculty of Arts

Zacheriah Houston, Vice-President (Finance and Operations)

Adam Templer, Arts Representative

Francois-Paul Truc, Clubs Representative

Gabriel Ning, Arts Representative

Chelsea Kingzett, Environment Representative

³² [Intel SEC Filings](#)

³³ [Taking Conflict Out of Consumer Gadgets, Company Rankings on Conflict Minerals, Enough Project, 2012](#)

³⁴ [Conflict Free Campus Initiative Rankings](#)



Motion for an Increase in Indigenous Content at McGill University

WHEREAS, the SSMU acknowledges that McGill University is located on traditional Kanien'kehá:ka territory;³⁵

WHEREAS, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has released their calls to action, including:

“10. We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples. The new legislation would include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principles:

...
iii. Developing culturally appropriate curricula

62. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to:

...
ii. Provide the necessary funding to post-secondary institutions to educate teachers on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into classroom”;³⁶

WHEREAS, several Canadian universities, including the University of Winnipeg, Lakehead University³⁷, and the University of Regina³⁸ have already committed to an Indigenous course requirement;

WHEREAS, the SSMU has created an Indigenous Affairs Coordinator position, which includes coordinating advocacy efforts for Indigenous students and interests within SSMU and McGill;

³⁵ SSMU, *Traditional Territory Acknowledgement*, October 9, 2014, available at: <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Motion-Adoption-of-a-Traditional-Territory-Acknowledgement-Statement-2014-10-09.pdf>.

³⁶ Truth and Reconciliation Commission, *Calls to Action*, p. 2 and p. 7, available at: http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf.

³⁷ The University of Winnipeg and Lakehead University requirements apply to all students: Maclean's, *Required reading: Making Indigenous classes mandatory*, November 19, 2015, available at: <http://www.macleans.ca/education/making-history-2/>.

³⁸ The University of Regina requirement applies to all students in the Faculty of Arts: CBC, *University of Winnipeg makes indigenous course a requirement*, November 20, 2015, available at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/university-of-winnipeg-makes-indigenous-course-a-requirement-1.3328372>.



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BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs) lobby the University for an increase in the hiring of Indigenous professors in all faculties at the University;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs) lobby the University for an increase in the number of Indigenous studies and Indigenous language courses offered, as well as the creation of a major in Indigenous Studies;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU express its support on its website, via Twitter, and via Facebook for a mandatory Indigenous content or Indigenous studies course requirement in all undergraduate programs at McGill University, within a reasonable amount of time, taking into account the University's capacity to offer Indigenous content;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs) with the University faculty and administration design and plan for the implementation of the mandatory Indigenous content or Indigenous Studies course requirement, after sufficient teaching resources are available, through the use of a committee including but not limited to elders, Indigenous community members, and faculty to approve courses for the requirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs) publish a progress report on developments regarding the implementation of this motion at each of the next two General Assemblies.

Moved by:

NDP McGill

Valerie Olivier, Law Representative
Erin Sobat, Senate Caucus Representative
Sean Taylor, Science Representative
Kareem Ibrahim, President
Chloe Rourke, Vice-President (University Affairs)