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

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

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 Research (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" (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" 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" 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:
Petition