

AGSEM Union Drive

Presentation to SSMU Council, [September 25 2014]

Introduction

- What is AGSEM?
- Seeking to unionize teaching support workers at McGill
 - Markers, graders, tutors, note-takers, undergraduate TAs, course assistants, and others
- What is a unionization campaign?

Why we're doing this

- Similar work to graduate TAs
 - Doesn't make sense to have separate rules
- Low and inconsistent pay, working conditions
- No protections in case of problems
 - Conflicts and disputes
 - Administrative errors

Union drive process

- Campaign to get union cards signed
 - Current or recent McGill employees who work in the relevant positions can join
- Submit the cards to the Labour Board
 - Completely confidential; only the government sees the cards
- Majority (50%+1) gets a union
- 35% gets a vote

Why you should care

- Many members of SSMU also work as teaching support workers
 - Undergrad TAs; tutors; note-takers; some graders
- In addition to protecting union members, unions also advocate for education quality
 - Pedagogical training
 - Increase in total TA hours

How SSMU can help us

- Distribute information to members
- Assist with outreach
 - Individuals can join the committee
- Endorse the campaign