



Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Policy for a Campus Free from Harmful Military Technology

A roll call vote was requested for clauses 1-3 and the results are included at the bottom of this document.

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 thermo-baric 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-transparent⁶ 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;

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/>



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

Office of the Speaker
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- 1) Be it resolved, that the SSMU renew its stance of opposition to the on campus development of military technology intended to inflict harm on people. (15Y: 6N : 5A)
- 2) 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).
- 3) Be it resolved, that the SSMU support student research opportunities that do not contribute to the development of harmful military technology through the office of the Vice-President (University Affairs).
- 4) Be it resolved, that the SSMU lobby the University to adopt higher standards of transparency with regard to the sponsors and intended applications of research contracts.
- 5) Be it resolved, that the Vice-President (University Affairs) advocate for the delin-eation of “social responsibility” and the criteria to be used to weigh the “potential benefits against the possibility of harmful applications” to evaluate the permissi-bility of research contracts.
- 6) Be it resolved, that this policy be valid for five years and expire on April 9th, 2020.

Moved By:

Claire Stewart-Kanigan, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Amina Moustaqim-Barrette, Vice-President (External Affairs)
Patrick Dunbar-Lavoie, Arts Representative



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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 an unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) to “[support] military missions in complex operating environments”⁹ (\$245,000 contract¹⁰).

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—Technicon military researchers in Israel, and Defence Research and Development Canada (\$230,600 funding from DRDC¹¹).

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.¹² Projects titles include “Measurement of the Limit of Shock Precompression and Induction Delay Time of Liquid Explosives”¹³ (2001) for DRDC, “Near-Field Impulse Effects from Detonation of Heterogeneous Explosives”¹⁴ (2001), and “Interaction of a blast wave with a metalized explosive fireball”¹⁵ (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> p.3

¹⁰ <http://demilitarizemcgill.com/military-research/aerospace-mechatronics-lab/>

¹¹ <http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/D1-14-2000E.pdf>

¹² <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>

¹³ <http://people.mcgill.ca/files/andrew.higgins/cv.andrew.higgins.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://www.mcgill.ca/mecheng/fr/node/140>

¹⁵ <http://www.mcgill.ca/mecheng/fr/node/1164>

SSMU Legislative Council – 9 April 2015

Voting Record re: Motion Regarding the Adoption of the Policy for a Campus Free from Harmful Military Technology

Clauses
Clause 1: Be it resolved, that the SSMU renew its stance of opposition to the development of harmful military technology on campus.
Clause 2: 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).
Clause 3: Be it resolved, that the SSMU support student research opportunities that do not contribute to the development of harmful military technology through the office of the Vice-President (University Affairs).

Voting record				
Councillor	Constituency	Clause 1	Clause 2	Clause 3
Courtney Ayukawa	President	In favor	In favor	Abstain
Claire Stewart-Kanigan	VP University Affairs	In favor	In favor	In favor
Amina Moustaqim-Barrette	VP External	In favor	In favor	In favor
Daniel Chaim	VP Internal	Against	Against	Abstain
Stefan Fong	VP Clubs & Services	Abstain	Abstain	In favor
Kathleen Bradley	VP Finance & Operations	Against	Against	Against
Lola Baraldi	Arts	In favor	In favor	In favor
Patrick Dunbar-Lavoie	Arts	In favor	In favor	In favor
Eddie Lin	Arts	In favor	In favor	In favor
Alex Kpeglo-Hennessy	Arts	Absent	Absent	Absent
Saurin Shah	Arts & Science	In favor	Against	Abstain
Eric Wiebe	Athletics	Absent	Absent	Absent
Rohan Sachal	Clubs	Absent	Absent	Absent
Victor Gassmann	Clubs & Services	Absent	Absent	Absent
Rachel Weaver	Services	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain
Taras Klitovchenko	Dentistry	Absent	Absent	Absent
Chris Kavallos	Education	In favor	In favor	In favor
Anikke Rioux	Engineering	Against	Against	Against
Scott Conrad	Engineering	Abstain	Against	Against
Lexi Michaud	First Year Council	In favor	In favor	Against
Vincent-Pierre Fullerton	Law			
Deven Sanon	Management			
Niall Carolan	Management	Against	Against	Against

Joshua Chin	Medicine	In favor	Against	Abstain
Nancy Zhang	Music	In favor	In favor	In favor
Rebecca Medvedev	Nursing	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain
Yasmine Nadifi	PT/OT	In favor	In favor	In favor
Laureanne Pelletier	Residences	Absent	Absent	Absent
Zachariah Houston	Science	Against	Against	Abstain
Omar El-Sharawy	Science	Against	Against	Abstain
Christie Li	Science			
Kareem Ibrahim	Senate Caucus	In favor	In favor	In favor
David Benrimoh	Senate Caucus	In favor	In favor	In favor
Chloe Rourke	Senate Caucus	Abstain	Against	Against
Romeo Bidar	Social Work	In favor	Against	Abstain

Vote totals				
	Clause 1	Clause 2	Clause 3	
In favor	15	12	11	
Against	6	11	6	
Abstentions	5	3	9	
No vote cast	3	3	3	
Absent	6	6	6	

Results				
	Clause 1	Clause 2	Clause 3	
Votes cast (excludes abstentions)	21	23	17	
Votes in favor	15	12	11	
Percent in favor	71.4%	52.2%	64.7%	
Result	Passed	Passed	Passed	