



MOTION REGARDING ENDORSEMENT OF OPEN LETTER ON MENTAL HEALTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moved by:

Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)

Kahli-Ann Douglas, Services Representative

William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative

¹ <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/mcgill-administration-continues-to-fail-student-5>