



Students' Society of McGill University
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Located on unceded, Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory

Report of the VP External and VP UA to Legislative Council on the Winter AVEQ Congresses

Contents:

Association for the Voice of Education in Québec (AVEQ)

On January 20th - 21st, the Winter AVEQ Congress was hosted by SSMU and held here in Montreal. The VP University Affairs and myself attending as observing representatives for SSMU. Around the table was the CSU (Concordia), MAGE UQAC (Université de Québec à Chicoutimi), AGE CAR (Université de Québec à Rimouski), AGE UQTR (Université de Québec à Trois-Rivières), AFELC & ADEESE (UQAM faculty associations), AEMSS-UQO (University of Quebec Network in Outaouais, social sciences department), AETELUQ (University of Quebec Network in QC).

DAY ONE

1. Roundtable presentation of current projects from each association
 - a. Recurring topics: Unpaid internships, Systemic Racism, Sexual Violence
2. Executive Reports
 - a. General Coordinator ; Secretary General ; Mobilization and Associative Development Coordinator ; Graduate Studies Coordinator ; Research & Education Coordinator ; Sociopolitical Affairs Coordinator
3. Ratification of the Executive Structure
 - a. To come into effect with the new executive
 - b. Remove power to sanction from the finance and administration commissioner and a delegated committee, instead moved to the administrative committee, change the position's title to general and financial coordinator.
4. Notice of motion on the creation of a commission on institutional affairs

- a. Mandate given to work with CEGEPS and see a) what their needs are, and b) if they would be interested in joining. Mandated the Graduate Studies Coordinator to produce a report on this for the January Congress

- 5. Discussion on an AVEQ policy on Gender Neutral text & communication
 - a. Mage-UQAC is in the process of adopting a policy on gender neutrality, asked if AVEQ had one. Had been talked about in 2016, draft still on the table. A policy for gender neutrality was adopted, a policy for gender neutral text in French was sent to the commission on institutional affairs

- 6. Financial Report
 - a. Minor changes to adapt to reality of spending/costs

- 7. Audiovisual Material
 - a. AVEQ mandated to look into costs of material for congresses

- 8. Mobilization Commission (SSMU VP External observes)
 - a. Discussion of Mobilization Committee and how it's working
 - b. Working with Unions and the CAMPAGNE UNI-E-S POUR \$15
 - c. Unpaid Internships
 - i. Days of strike and action - February 20th
 - ii. Regional tour
 - iii. Motion: Montreal Coalition for paid internships
 - iv. Résolution :
 - Que l'AVEQ reconnaisse le statut de travailleur.euses des stagiaires et s'implique de concert avec les autres associations, groupes communautaires et syndicats afin de créer un rapport de force visant à tenter de renverser cette propension à l'exploitation et au travail gratuit des étudiant.es ;
 - Que l'AVEQ encourage une diversité de tactiques pour lutter pour les stagiaires non-rémunéré.e.s et s'engage à respecter la grève des stagiaires advenant l'adoption d'une telle proposition ;
 - Que l'AVEQ se joigne à la Coalition montréalaise pour la rémunération des stages, et soutienne la création des autres coalitions régionales ainsi qu'une tournée des régions ;
 - Que l'AVEQ propose, à la prochaine rencontre de la Coalition montréalaise pour la rémunération des stages, l'organisation d'un forum des stagiaires de plusieurs domaines comprenant des invité.e.s

des partis politiques;

Que l'AVEQ se dote d'un budget afin d'appuyer la lutte des stagiaires.

(passed unanimously)

- d. CLIMATE JUSTICE
 - i. Week of action in February
 - ii. Collaboration with the RVHQ (group against fossil fuels)
 - e. Mob Camp
 - i. Updates and Discussion
 - f. CEGEPs
 - i. Updates and discussions
9. Research Commission (SSMU VP University Affairs observes)
- a. Recherche sur la santé mentale
 - i. Timeline getting extended to allow for more opportunities for associations to respond
 - b. Recherche sur l'impact de l'austérité dans les universités de région
 - i. Researcher has just finished visiting different regional universities, reaching out to school administrators to do a second round of informational meetings
 - c. Recherche sur les stages non-rémunérés
 - i. Research in progress
 - d. Recherche sur les grilles de financement universitaire
 - i. Researcher is stepping down after finishing a literature review so will be delays until find a replacement
 - e. Recherche sur la déréglementation de programme pour étudiant.es internationaux
 - i. Research is done, all that's left is translation and graphic design
 - f. Research Committee
 - i. Extensive discussion on the value of creating such a committee, essentially institutionalizing processes for associations to provide feedback on research proposals
 - g. Proposition: Research Commission
 - i. Change pay assessment scheme so that is moves with inflation instead of fixed amount
 - h. Varia
10. Socio-political Affairs Commission (SSMU VP External Affairs observed)

11. UPDATES

- a. Updates and discussion on Budget

12. OUR TURN

- a. Action plan
- b. Motion : collaboration and financing

FINANCING AND SUPPORT FOR OUR TURN

Body : Sociopolitical Commission

Proposed by : SSMU et AVEQ

Whereas:

1. AVEQ has had the mandate, since it's congress in July 2017 to "collaborate with Our Turn during the creation and distribution of their framework, and connect Our Turn Coordinators to member associations, as well as other groups that may benefit from access to these resources in the creation of more effective campaigns";
2. Our Turn has accomplished a lot of work since the congress in July 2017, including their presence on different campuses, the creation of their action plan and its translation, as well as the creation of several connections in the province;
3. The Our Turn campaign is increasingly working with Concordia and McGill students, and the undergraduate associations (CSU and SSMU) are a member and an observer of AVEQ;
4. The Our Turn Campaign has been able to help AVEQ for it's work on the issue of sexual violence in Quebec, particularly throughout the consultations for Bill 151.
5. That Our Turn needs financial support to continue and expand its work.

Resolved :

1. That AVEQ support and continue to collaborate with the Our Turn campaign, as long as their actions continue to be adapted to the reality of Quebec and regional universities
2. That AVEQ financially support the work of Our Turn with a grant of \$3000, which would allow member associations to have direct access to the campaign resources, including the support of Our Turn staff for the implementation of the aforementioned resources.

(approved unanimously)

13. POSITION AGAINST THE PRESENCE OF POLICE ON CAMPUS

PROPOSAL FOR THE ADDED POSITION ON NO POLICE ON CAMPUS

Instance: Commission on socio-political affairs.

Proposed by: AVEQ

Whereas:

1. Whereas AVEQ is dedicated to promote a safer and more accessible education environment.
2. Considering the violence and negligence perpetrated by the police force all around the province of Québec (i.e: Val d'Or, Pierre Coriolan, etc.).
3. Considering the particular history of police repression and violence towards the student movement (racial profiling, political profiling, violence and direct harm to student protesters, etc.)

Il est résolu « Que l'AVEQ s'oppose à toute présence policière non-sollicitée par les étudiant.e.s sur les campus universitaires, et favorise l'appel de services spécialisés en premier lieu »; et que l'AVEQ travaille à créer une liste de ressources spécialisées dans chaque région membre.

« Que l'AVEQ reconnaisse les établissements d'enseignement supérieur comme des sanctuaires et s'oppose ainsi à la présence policière pour des raisons politiques »

(passed unanimously)

DAY 2

1. Reopening of the General Assembly
2. Elections
 - a. Elections for next year's executive coming up
 - b. AVEQ will be proposing a committee on election to revise election policy
 - c. Sociopolitical affairs Commissioner stepping down, motion of congratulations adopted
3. Approval of decisions from commissions
4. Date of next congress
 - a. Taking place in Chicoutimi, next one will be in Outaouais
5. Varia
 - a. Talked about punctuality
 - b. Potential of having workshops between congresses
6. Close of Congress
 - a. 10h50

PROPOSAL MOVING FORWARD (Winter 2018)

Fall Semester :

- ~~Creation of Adhoc Provincial Representation Committee to report to council~~
- Organizing AVEQ and UEQ presentations to faculty councils (in motion)
- Dissemination of both UEQ and AVEQ materials on campus to increase awareness (in motion)
- Creation of materials on importance of provincial representation (in motion)

Winter Semester :

- Last presentations to faculty councils
- ~~Attend~~ AVEQ and UEQ Winter Congresses
- Produce full report and formal recommendations to present to council
- Final presentations of both AVEQ and UEQ to council
- Decision made by council which association to put on the ballot (possibility of having both on the ballot! What are people's thoughts?)
- Affiliation question put to referendum