

Interest Group Committee Report
March 9, 2012

Full Status:

1) McGill Students for Israel- approved

McGill Students for Israel is submitting this application for full club status within SSMU. Since the beginning of the year, our membership has more than tripled, and we have formed a great community of dedicated students with shared goals. We hope to be able to increase our capacity to do in this semester going forward.

McGill Students for Israel's goals are to:

- Raise awareness of and support for the Jewish and democratic State of Israel from a cultural, political, and social perspective.
- Highlight Israel's shared values with Canada and the West, namely democracy, tolerance and respect for human rights.
- Engage any and all students of all backgrounds, encouraging those who are not Jewish, who are interested in learning more about Israel and promote co-operation and understanding on campus.

MSI organized, and will continue to organize, speaker events and movies to further understanding and promote discussion regarding Israel's political, social, cultural and economic situations. MSI will table and provide the resources to promote a positive image of Israel often missing on campus, especially with regard to its quest for peace, commitment to diversity and respect for human rights.

As an official SSMU club, MSI would have greater opportunities and resources to enrich and deepen the campus debate regarding Israel, and continue the progress we have made as a group on campus.

2) Sabela- Approved

As co-founders of SABELA, we feel privileged to have been met with such an enthusiastic response from the McGill community since we formed the club in March of last year. It is wonderful to see that there is a space for us within the array of clubs and societies at McGill, and that there is a shared interest in our cause even with so many other organizations focusing on issues in the developing world. In the past few months we have managed to sign up almost two hundred members, thirty to forty of whom are

an active presence in our group, attending meetings and events.

With the hope of appealing to a diverse audience on campus we have hosted a variety of activities, looking to find a balance between fun and informative. Our first event was a bake sale, which had the goal of raising funds for our beneficiary

(SHAWCO), but was also our first time getting our name out in the community. We made and distributed business cards and flyers, encouraging students to take a look at our

Facebook page and our music streaming. We were thrilled to have raised upwards of \$450 from one day alone. The second event was an on campus movie night, where we screened the South African film "Tsotsi" which won the Academy Award for best foreign language film in 2005. While the film was gritty and violent, it gave an accurate portrayal of the issue of violent crime and the remaining economic disparity in South Africa. As part of the evening we also provided pizza, and charged a modest donation of \$2. Our last

event of the semester was a night at Factory Bar on St. Laurent, where we teamed up with

Hype Events and received a portion of the cover charge.

Interim status:

Mahjong Club- Rejected

- A Mahjong Club already exists. This group was referred to the pre-existing one.

East Asian Business Network- Rejected

- considered to be too similar to a variety of other clubs, including Hong Kong Business Network, which deals with business in most of east asia.

Redbird Entertainment- Tabled

- very vague, seems like a business venture more than a club
- have requested clarification

Global Political Economics Association- Approved

- Create an environment for students of all faculties to learn about and discuss economic problems.
- Raise awareness of current economic worries and competing theoretical solutions by attracting new members, hosting on-campus fundraisers, hosting social events, inviting guest speakers, and periodically publishing articles on our website
- Promote an understanding of the debate between the Austrian School of economics and Keynesian economics by providing access to literature, hosting bimonthly discussion meetings, and building a centralized resource for insight into the debate with our website.
- Provide an opportunity for members to gain recognition by publishing articles on the Association's website.

Progressive Zionists- Approved

- Promote a progressive approach to Israel

- Create a forum for discussion on issues in Israel
- Recognize Israel's right to exist while making a commitment to social justice and human rights
- Advocate for a two state solution and recognize the right to self-determination for both Israelis and Palestinians.
- Educate to the McGill and wider Montreal community on progressive Zionist ideals
- Network with relevant organizations and institutions on campus, throughout the Montreal community and in Canada
- Hold events relating to the pursuit of Progressive Zionism

Neglected Tropical Diseases- Approved

- Spread awareness amongst McGill students, staff, and professors of the widespread suffering
- caused by neglected tropical diseases by hosting workshops with guest speakers and awareness
- campaigns.
- Collect donations through events such as bake sales and bar nights to be donated to the Global
- Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases' End7 Campaign.
- Raise awareness on a broader scale outside of McGill University through social media outlets such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr by posting articles, photos, and information about relevant NGOs.
- Spread awareness on a local scale among local Montreal elementary schools through interactive workshops.