



Legislative Council - October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

# Motion to Bring the Question of AVEQ Affiliation to Referendum

**Whereas**, the SSMU is currently an independent student association and currently is not affiliated with any provincial or federal association;

**Whereas**, the SSMU has a limited ability to influence provincial and federal politics as an independent student association and membership in a provincial student association would result in better representation of the voices of McGill students at the provincial level;

**Whereas**, the SSMU has historically affiliated with provincial student associations, allowing the SSMU to represent McGill student interests at the provincial and federal level by advocating for accessible and high quality education;

**Whereas**, the Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec, hereafter referred to as AVEQ, is a provincial level student association with the mission to unite Quebec's university students so as to defend their pedagogical, political, social, and economic interests by means of research, representation, and mobilization;

**Whereas**, the SSMU has acted as an observer at the AVEQ since its inception and during the development phase from Spring 2015 up until the present;

**Whereas**, membership in AVEQ would provide significant advantages to McGill students due to the association's emphasis on both Anglophone and Francophone participation, representation of international students, a balance of both mobilization and lobbying efforts, access to funding for student initiatives, and specific campaigns related to sexual violence prevention, climate justice, educational accessibility and more;

**Whereas**, the SSMU Legislative Council mandated that the Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs) bring a referendum question regarding affiliation to AVEQ in Fall 2017;

**Whereas**, membership in the AVEQ would require a fee levy of \$3.50 per student per semester that will go towards the funding of six full-time student executives, student staff positions, mobilization and associative development, and research on issues related to education;

**Be it Resolved**, that the SSMU Legislative Council approve the following question for the Fall 2017 referendum period:

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‘Do you support the creation of a non-opt-outable AVEQ fee of \$3.50 per student per semester, payable on Minerva by all undergraduate students who are members of the SSMU, starting in Winter 2018 and to be charged until Winter 2023 (inclusive), adjusted annually to inflation as indexed by the Bank of Canada CPI (Consumer Price Index), in order for the SSMU to affiliate with the provincial student association the Association for the Voice of Education in Quebec (AVEQ), with the understanding that a no vote would result in the SSMU remaining an independent student association?’

**Be it Further Resolved**, that the clauses contained herein be included with the questions on the referendum ballot.

**Moved by:**

Connor Spencer, Vice-President (External Affairs)

Jennifer Chan, Arts Representative

R’ay Fodor, Arts and Science Representative