



Motion Regarding Support for the Social Equity and Diversity Office (SEDE)

Whereas, the Social Equity and Diversity Office (SEDE), established in 2006, provides information, education and training to all areas of the University in order to cultivate a respectful, diverse and supportive campus;

Whereas, SEDE provides McGill students and staff with community-based learning experiences that foster leadership, encourage civic engagement, and promote a deeper understanding of diversity;

Whereas, SEDE offers essential resources and programs in Racial and Cultural Diversity, Aboriginal, and LGBTQ issues;

Whereas, SEDE has created many community projects that have involved undergraduate students including Community Action Toolkit, Community Engagement Day, Hidden Gems and Homework Zone;

Whereas, the three main recommendations of the Principal's Task Force on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement are:

McGill University will demonstrate a firm commitment to the recruitment, retention and professional development of diverse and excellent academic staff, administrative and support staff, and students, placing a strong emphasis on expanding the candidate pools and the pipelines of future candidates to accelerate progress in this regard.

Our definition of excellence at McGill shall be broadened to ensure that the indicators of excellence that we value and with which we measure ourselves correspond with our mission, including our broad commitment to positive societal impact.

Affirm a commitment to McGill's positive engagement with, and impact on, outside communities, locally, nationally and globally; build innovatively and progressively on the university's history of service to society and thereby expand opportunities for research, scholarship, and learning.

Whereas, the SSMU has a long-standing history of leadership on issues of Equity and Social Justice;

Whereas, Leadership, the third pillar of SSMU's commitment to its membership, as outlined in the SSMU constitution states that:

VII. The Students' Society commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection. The Society shall be mindful of the direct and indirect effects corporations, businesses and organizations have on their social, political, economic, and environmental surroundings.



VIII. The Students' Society commits itself to groups, programs and activities that are devoted to the well-being of a group disadvantaged because of irrelevant personal characteristics that include but are not limited to race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, gender identification, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation or social class;

Whereas, the SSMU Equity Policy states that

6.5. The SSMU will actively support projects and policies that aim to end discrimination or to promote accessibility and inclusiveness in the McGill community. In accordance with this, the SSMU and its affiliated Clubs and Services will not affiliate or collaborate with organizations known to promote or engage in the previously mentioned discrimination or harassment;

Resolved, that the SSMU affirm SEDE as a valuable and integral organization on campus;

Resolved, that the SSMU collaborates with SEDE on initiatives related to equity, social justice and the community; this includes but is not limited to support for SEDE initiatives such as Community Engagement Day, collaboration between the SSMU Equity Committee and SEDE staff, collaboration in visioning for policy improvement in equity, and equity training for students and staff.

Resolved, that the SSMU, holds McGill accountable to its commitments to diversity and equity, as outlined in the Administrative Response to the Recommendations of the Principal's Task Force on Diversity, Excellence and Community Engagement;

Resolved, that the SSMU calls upon McGill University to maintain financial support for SEDE's ongoing work, and to provide permanent funding for SEDE's future endeavours.

Moved By:

Haley Dinel, Vice-President (University Affairs)

Josh Redel, President

Robin Reid-Fraser, Vice-President (External Affairs)

Allison Cooper, Vice-President (Clubs and Services)

Colleen Morawetz, Arts Representative

Shaina Agbayani, Equity Commissioner

Justin Koh, Equity Commissioner