



Motion Regarding Solidarity Against Austerity

Whereas, austerity measures refer to official actions taken by the government to reduce its budget deficit by making cuts to the public sector¹;

Whereas, the Couillard government has announced an austerity budget and cuts of approximately \$172 million dollars to University funding²;

Whereas, this translates to around \$14 million dollars in cuts to McGill University in 2014-2015, in addition to the university's \$7 million dollar deficit³;

Whereas, McGill University has failed to effectively communicate this information to the McGill community and has remained compliant with these cuts;

Whereas, student associations and federations across Quebec are planning mass demonstrations and strikes against austerity measures, and organizing "Spring 2015" committees⁴;

Whereas, "higher education is a public good, not a private gain"⁵;

Whereas, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) has previously had a Policy Regarding Accessible Education (2007) and a Motion Regarding Renewing Support for Accessible Education (2012);

Be it resolved, that the SSMU take a stance on and publicly denounce the provincial government's austerity measures against McGill University and other post-secondary institutions;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU to inform and mobilize its members to participate in demonstrations in opposition to austerity measures by working with

- a) Student unions
- b) Student federations;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU encourage its members to attend open forum sessions hosted by Provost Anthony Masi on October 27, 2014 regarding cuts to the university budget.

1. <http://lexicon.ft.com/Term?term=austerity-measure>

2. <http://www.montrealgazette.com/More+budget+cuts+coming+universities+report/10206089/story.html>

3. <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2014/10/mcgill-ends-financial-year-with-15-million-surplus/>

4. <http://printemps2015.org/>

5. http://www.researchgate.net/publication/226235977_Beyond_Private_Gain_The_Public_Benefits_of_Higher_Education



Students' Society of McGill University
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Speaker
Bureau de Président du Conseil

Moved by:
VP Moustaqim-Barrette
Councillor Zhang
Councillor Sachal
Councillor Michaud
Councillor Nadifi

FOR APPROVAL