

### **Question RE: TVMcGill Funding**

WHEREAS TVMcGill is the only student-run film and television production outlet at McGill University dedicated to providing resources and training for the McGill community to gain valuable hands-on experience in media/audio-visual production

WHEREAS TVMcGill is the only production outlet at McGill University that provides filming and editing services for the McGill community to publicize and promote the interests of the McGill community

WHEREAS TVMcGill is dedicated to providing news and entertainment for the McGill community by covering a wide range of student events including campus life, student elections, and its own original content through the TVMcGill.com website and various closed circuit televisions across campus

WHEREAS TVMcGill wishes to continue to improve the invaluable services and opportunities it offers the McGill community and expand to impact more people in it

WHEREAS the existing budget for TVMcGill hinders TVMcGill's ability to improve and grow as a video content production service for the McGill community due to the substantial costs associated with acquiring and maintaining adequate equipment for video content production

**Do you agree** that TVMcGill become directly funded by an opt-outable student levy for all full-time and part-time undergraduate students studying at the downtown campus for the amount of \$0.50 per student per semester, from the fall 2010 semester up to and including the winter 2011 semester?

### **Question: re: Creation of Student Life**

WHEREAS each year students pay fees to finance several SSMU groups, and funds that support student initiatives pertaining to campus life, the environment, and others, and;

WHEREAS currently, funds not spent by June 1 each year are moved to an account which exclusively funds capital expenditures, and are not available to student groups for their activities, and;

WHEREAS SSMU would like to create a system that would ensure these student fees paid remain allocated to the areas they were intended for, and remain accessible in future years;

**Do you agree** that the SSMU sets up a "student Life Fund" so that all surpluses generated by student funded departments (including, but not limited to: McGill First Aid Service, Drivesafe, McGill Nightline, Walksafe, the Union for Gender Empowerment, Midnight Kitchen, the McGill Tribune, the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Students' Society,

the Ambassador Fund, the Green Fund, the Campus Life Fund, the Space Fee Fund, the Physical & Occupational Therapy Undergraduate Society, the Social Work Students' Association, and the Nursing Undergraduate Society) are transferred into this fund for future use.

**and that** any surplus of the Club Fund also be transferred into the Student Life Fund.

#### **Question RE: Constitution Section III**

WHEREAS Section III of the SSMU Constitution (Committees of the Society) details the responsibilities of the standing committees of the society (Constitutional Review Committee, Financial Ethics Research Committee, Nominating Committee)

WHEREAS The current structure and responsibilities of these committees are not aligned with current practices

WHEREAS All the functions of these committees are currently being reassigned

WHEREAS All Committees of Council have been under review since September 2009

WHEREAS A solid Committee structure is the very foundation of good governance

WHEREAS All other committees are regulated in the SSMU Bylaws

**Do you agree** that SSMU Legislative Council Committee mandates be relegated to the Bylaws, and Section III be removed from the SSMU Constitution?

#### **Question RE: WUSC Refugee Scholarship Fund**

WHEREAS, the SSMU referendum of October 1986, established the World University Service Committee (WUSC) Refugee Scholarship Fund to sponsor 2 refugee students to study at McGill;

WHEREAS, students have contributed \$0.50/term to support WUSC refugee students;

WHEREAS, 2 WUSC refugee students have not been enrolled each year since 1986;

WHEREAS, a surplus of funds is available in the WUSC fund;

WHEREAS, many students from developing countries attend the University and require financial assistance;

**Do you agree** that funds provided by the WUSC contribution may also be used to support international students from developing countries if there are no eligible WUSC refugee students in any year?

**Question re: QPIRG by-law changes**

Considering that it is a common practice among not-for-profit organizations in Quebec, Canada, and internationally to alter their constitutions and bylaws through Annual General Meetings, and;

Considering that the Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG) at McGill University);

**Do you agree that:**

Bylaw 11, Amendments, Section A (Procedures), Point 1 for the Constitutions and Bylaws of the Quebec Public Interest Research Group at McGill, which reads: “Amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws may only be made by a resolution of QPIRG-McGill in a referendum held in accordance with Bylaw 7.”

Be changed to read:

“Amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws may only be made by majority vote of the membership present at the duly-convened Annual General Meeting of QPIRGMcGill.”

**Question RE: McGill Tribune as an independent organization**

**Do you support** the existence of the McGill Tribune as an independent organization and the establishment of a non-opt-outable fee of \$2.50 to be charged to every SSMU member once per semester, from June 1,2010 until May 31, 2015, to support the operations of the McGill Tribune?

**Question RE: Policies on matters external to the Society**

WHEREAS Past General Assembly motions have asked the SSMU to adopt positions on matters external to its regular activities

WHEREAS Official positions pertaining to matters external to the Society should be well-researched, and vetted for consistency with all other policies of the Society.

WHEREAS SSMU is currently reforming its policy process on matters external to the Society

WHEREAS a thorough policy review process will ensure SSMU positions are credible and adequately representative of the views of its members

WHEREAS SSMU is bound by its constitution to remain a leader in matters of “human rights, social justice, and environmental protection”

WHEREAS Article 28.1 of the Constitution currently reads “A General Assembly may establish, amend or rescind any policy of the society except:

- This Constitution
- Membership fees or other financial matters of the society;
- The composition of the society's staff

**Do you agree** that Article 28.1 be amended to read “A General Assembly may establish, amend or rescind any policy of the society except:

- This Constitution
- Membership fees or other financial matters of the society;
- The composition of the society's staff
- Policies on matters external to the Society's regular activities.

**And** Article 28.2 be inserted

28.2 Exceptionally, a policy on a matter external to the Society's regular activities may be adopted at a General Assembly if the following conditions are met:

- Quorum for these resolutions shall be five hundred (500)
- 2/3 of the General Assembly votes to debate the resolution
- The resolution passes with a simple majority

#### **Question RE: Environment Fee**

**Whereas** the SSMU Environment Fee, also known as the SSMU Green Fund, was created in 2007 to empower campus members to engage in sustainable initiatives on campus and in their personal lives as well as build a culture of sustainability on campus; and

**Whereas** Green Fund monies have supported projects such as the McGill Farmers Market, The Plate Club, Campus Crops, the McGill Food Systems Project, Tapthirst, the Sustainable McGill Project, the McGill Business Conference on Sustainability, Gorilla Composting, the Rethink Your Curriculum Challenge, ECOuture Fashion Show, SUS Green Week, the Uncharted Waters Conference, McGill's industrial composter, SSMU Environment Commissioners and Green Events Coordinator; and

**Whereas** the recently-created Sustainability Projects Fund targets large-scale projects which must benefit the entire campus community and therefore cannot prioritize students, and does not fund projects which try to “green” normal operations (e.g. recycled paper for event posters) or projects which are the direct responsibility of another group (e.g. SSMU Environment Commissioners); and

**Whereas** the Green Fund has made it possible for McGill students to be involved in the sustainability movement beyond McGill through Power Shift USA , Power Shift Canada, Sustainable Campuses Conferences, and the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education; and

**Whereas** the Green Fund has made it possible for many non-environmental groups to run more environmentally-friendly events where the changes required would have otherwise been financially untenable; and

**Whereas** the Green Fund is the only student-regulated environmental fund on campus; and

**Whereas** any SSMU member is eligible to apply for Green Fund funding; and

**Whereas** students will continue to be able to opt-out of the Environment Fee,

**Do you agree** to renew the SSMU Environment Fee of \$1.25 (opt-outable) per semester for three years, to start in Fall 2010, and to be charged until Winter 2013(inclusive), with the understanding that a “no” vote will eliminate many environmental events, staff positions, and services supported by it?

**Question RE: Daily Publications Society Fee Increase**

WHEREAS the Daily Publications Society (DPS) publishes two independent, student-run, non-profit newspapers, *The McGill Daily* and *Le Délit*;

WHEREAS the DPS publishes three issues per week: new editions of *The McGill Daily* every Monday and Thursday, and a new edition of *Le Délit* every Tuesday;

WHEREAS both papers are supported by a student fee of \$5 per student per term;

WHEREAS *Le Délit* is the only French-language student newspaper at McGill;

WHEREAS a free and critical press is essential to a vibrant campus society and a healthy democracy;

WHEREAS for almost 100 years, the newspapers have provided a forum for students to express their opinions and remain informed of important campus events;

WHEREAS both newspapers welcome writing and artistic contributions from the entire McGill community;

WHEREAS both papers provide students with training as journalists, as well as workshops and lectures open to the McGill community;

WHEREAS sales derived from print advertising in newspapers have decreased significantly in recent years;

WHEREAS the DPS is embracing online publishing and new media including breaking news online, Podcasts, and live-blogging;

WHEREAS these new initiatives entail additional costs;

WHEREAS amid rapidly changing circumstances, the long-term viability of *The Daily* and *Le Délit* depends upon strengthened student support;

**Do you support** the \$1 per student per term increase in fees to the Daily Publications Society?

**Question RE: Body Sovereignty in SSMU Constitution**

Considering that currently the SSMU Constitution's Preamble only makes mention to full respect for human dignity.

Considering that "full respect for human dignity" does not explicitly include body sovereignty as part of its definition, and therefore, body sovereignty can be overlooked.

Considering that body sovereignty is defined as the individual's inalienable right to govern their own body.

And further considering that including this amendment to the SSMU Constitution Preamble will allow the SSMU to protect its student's safety and dignity even further.

**Do you agree that:**

Section VI of the Preamble of the Constitution be rewritten to read

"All student society endeavors should be undertaken with full respect for human dignity and body sovereignty, without discrimination on the basis 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, language, sexual orientation or social class."

**Plebiscite question: Funding the TaCEQ**

Whereas the Table de Concertation etudiante du Quebec (TaCEQ) was formed in April 2009 by SSMU and three other student associations, from around Quebec, and;

Whereas the TaCEQ was formed to represent the above associations externally, and to lobby and mobilize campaigns on post secondary education issues, and;

Whereas the member associations of the TaCEQ are against levying fees (something done by TaCEQ's counterparts) from students to finance the operations of the TaCEQ, and;

Whereas the TaCEQ has been seeking official recognition from the provincial Ministry of Education in order to be eligible for grants called the *Bourse des Permanents*, which would finance the operations of the TaCEQ, and;

Whereas the FEUQ (the TaCEQ's main counterpart) receives this funding from the

government, and;

Whereas the Ministry of Education has, as yet, not officially recognized the TaCEQ, therefore rendering the latter ineligible for these grants;

Do you support TaCEQ's continued position to lobby the Province for funding to finance its operations instead of levying fees from students?