



Motion Regarding the Ban of the Song “Blurred Lines” From the Shatner Building

Whereas Section 2.2 of the SSMU Equity Policy states that “...the SSMU strives to create a community that exceeds social standards of equitable treatment, creating a safer space for all of our members...” and Section 2.3 states that “To support this responsibility as well as the SSMU’s mission of Service, Representation, and Leadership, the SSMU will promote a functional anti-oppressive environment...”.

Whereas part of the SSMU Equity Policy promotes safe space in relation to gender equity and sexual assault.

Whereas the song “Blurred Lines” perpetuates rape culture by diminishing the necessity of consent in sexual relations and goes against SSMU’s commitment to maintaining an anti-oppressive safe space.

Whereas “Blurred Lines” includes lyrics triggering to survivors of sexual assault and harassment including: “I hate these blurred lines,” “I know you want it,” “the way you grab me, must wanna get nasty” “Baby can you breathe? I got this from Jamaica/ It always works for me, Dakota to Decateur ... no more pretending” etc.

Whereas “Blurred Lines” degrades and oppresses women in a variety of ways that goes against the SSMU policy stated above.

Whereas there is precedent for this motion as 5 other universities in Europe have already banned this song from their campus bars. One stated “that ‘Blurred Lines’ is the quintessential song of the moment that normalises sexual harassment and condones rape culture.”.

Whereas the Equity Policy promotes a culture of equitable choices around the productions and multi-media publicly exhibited in the SSMU building.

Be it resolved that the song "Blurred Lines" is removed from the playlist(s) at Gerts and all other events hosted by the SSMU within the Shatner building (eg. 4floors), including all clubs and services under the SSMU, as it is an example of rape culture and may be triggering for survivors of sexual assault.



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

Office of the Speaker
Bureau de Président du Conseil

Be it resolved that the SSMU work towards promoting a safe space by requesting that groups not affiliated with SSMU using space in the Shatner building do not play the song.

Moved By:

Sarah Southey (Science Rep)

Joey Shea (VP University Affairs)

Lola Baraldi (Arts Rep)

Kareem Ibrahim (Arts Rep)

Failed