



### **Motion Regarding the Milton Gates Barriers**

Whereas, the Office for Students with Disabilities has expressed concern that the barriers restrict campus accessibility for those using wheelchairs, canes, or strollers, and were not consulted in the decision-making process to erect the barriers,

Whereas, the barriers are in conflict with the principles of Universal Design endorsed by the Office for Students with Disabilities,

Whereas, the Office for Students with Disabilities has consented to having these sentiments expressed through a letter submitted by the AUS to relevant McGill community and administration members,

Whereas, the barriers represent a symbolic barrier to McGill campus' physical connection to the Milton Park Community in conflict with the aim of creating "community engagement and partnerships at the local . . . [level]" expressed by the Principal's Taskforce on Diversity, Excellence, and Community Engagement,

Whereas, the capital budget could be allocated to other more pressing renovation needs, such as the projected \$835M+ in deferred maintenance on campus infrastructure and buildings,

Whereas, the administration failed to consult students for feedback on this project before its completion,

Whereas, the barriers represent a violation of McGill's Standards for a Barrier-free Campus document which states that "Exterior walks shall: . . . Not have any obstacles protruding into the exterior path of travel. In the case where they are unavoidable, they require colour contrast and an indicator surface of 300mm (1'0") surrounding the object with colour and texture contrast,"

Whereas, McGill's statement that they have recorded "at least four incidents of collisions between cyclists and pedestrians in recent years and anecdotes about close calls are numerous" provides insufficiently clear rationale for the project,

Whereas, the gates are ineffective towards achieving their express purpose of reducing on-campus bike use and safety,



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

**Office of the Speaker**  
Bureau de Président du Conseil

Whereas, alternative means of addressing bicycle–pedestrian safety concerns such as on–campus bike lanes are being explored at other campuses,

Whereas, expressing these concerns to the McGill community and relevant members of the McGill administration is a step in prompting the reconsideration the installation and continued presence of the gates,

Resolved, that the SSMU adopt a stance of disapproval of the erection of the barriers at the Milton Gates and the lack of student consultation accompanying this decision.

Resolved, that the SSMU advocates for the exploration of alternative means of creating a meaningful, safe place for bicycles and alternative transportation on campus, such as bike lanes.

Resolved, that the SSMU Legislative Council draft a letter expressing these sentiments to be sent to:

Campus media outlets for publication

Provost Anthony Masi

Vice–Principal (Administration and Finance) Michael DiGrappa

Associate Vice–Principal (University Services) Robert Couvrette

the SSMU VP Internal for inclusion on the SSMU listserv

the SSMU VP Internal for posting on the SSMU website

Moved by:

Claire Stewart–Kanigan, Senate Caucus Representative to SSMU

Zachary Rosentzveig, Clubs and Services Representative