



Motion Regarding the Protection of Student Degrees and Publications from Private Litigation

Whereas the University is bound by the Charter of Student Rights to "maintain safe and suitable conditions of learning", to "provide an appropriate environment for learning and assessment activities" and to protect students "against vexatious conduct displayed by a representative of the University acting in an official capacity",

Whereas students in graduate and undergraduate programs performing research at the university have faced conflicts with professors and with private corporations with a stake in their research that make the enjoyment of the above rights impossible for the students in question,

Whereas these conflicts have led to the threatening of student publications and degrees, and to legal action against students or graduates, at times funded by private corporations, that have as their aim the revocation of these publications and degrees,

Whereas the above may constitute grave financial, academic and psychological threats to the students or graduates in question,

Whereas these situations are symptomatic of greater issues relating to corporate involvement on campus and lack of uniform standards to be applied to the mediation of supervisor–student conflicts,

Whereas the University should protect and ensure the value of the degrees it confers to students in cases where the student has done nothing to undermine the value of said degree,

Be it resolved that the SSMU take a stance advocating that any degree or publication fairly completed or produced by a student should be protected by the University from privately instigated litigation aimed at its revocation,

Be it resolved that SSMU take a stance in favor of the University adopting a policy outlining the role of the University and its representatives in cases where the validity of a student's degree that has been conferred by the University is put in question by legal action instigated by parties internal or external to the university; specifically, in order to handle cases where:



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Bureau de Président du Conseil

- A party internal to the university (such as a professor) is the instigator of the private legal action, SSMU should take a position advocating that the University:
 - a. Create an independent and neutral internal procedure by which the university will arbitrate the dispute, preferably before it is the subject of litigation,
 - b. Create, in order to prevent litigation, a formal policy that requires the said agent to avoid pursuing outside means of legal action with the intention of revoking a student's degree or of retracting a student's publications; instead the party should make use of the internal process described in (A.),
- An external party (such as a corporation) is the instigator of private legal action, SSMU should take a position advocating that the University actively defend the graduate's degree, through legal means if necessary

Be it resolved that the SSMU not advocate for the above in cases where an appropriate University committee has fairly convicted a student of plagiarism, cheating, or other dishonest work, as these situations are handled via the Committee on Student Discipline and may be addressed through the Grievance Procedure

Be it resolved that the SSMU work with the PGSS and student Senators and lobby the University, the Vice Principle (Research and University Relations), the Principal and Vice Chancellor, the Dean of Students, and the Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning) to produce and implement these policy changes

Movers:

Joey Shea, VP University Affairs

David Benrimoh

Samuel Harris, VP External Affairs