



Motion Regarding the Support for the Creation of University-wide Standards on the Mediation of Student-Supervisor Conflicts

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 the conflicts have led to prolongation of research beyond the agreed upon research period, the breaching of agreements and grant contracts by the supervisor, and the sudden termination of student funding,

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

Whereas these situations are symptomatic of the lack of uniform standards to be applied to the mediation of supervisor-student conflicts,

Be it resolved that the SSMU take a position in favor of the creation of University-wide standards for the resolution of student-supervisor conflicts in graduate and undergraduate research,

Be it resolved that said standards include provisions for:

- The protection of students from the sudden termination of student funding or stipends by professors or the University,
- Providing students with a new supervisor in the case of conflicts with a supervisor that cannot be resolved,
- The protection of students from demands made by professors or corporate interests that are outside of the previously agreed-upon scope of the research,
- The revision, by an independent body within the university, of all research agreements between supervisors and students to ensure compliance with the Charter of Student Rights and other relevant guidelines



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

Office of the Speaker
Bureau de Président du Conseil

- The ongoing review of supervisors' adherence to the standards

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 standards,

Be it resolved that these efforts be coordinated through the position of the Vice President University Affairs

Movers:

Joey Shea, VP University Affairs

David Benrimoh

Samuel Harris, VP External Affairs

Approved