



**Motion Regarding Support of the Peer Support Network and the Mental Health Space on Campus**

Whereas, a group of McGill students established the Peer Support Network (PSN) in Fall 2013;

Whereas, the PSN is a peer-run service that provides drop-in, non-judgemental, confidential one-on-one support to members of the McGill community and PSN volunteers receive extensive training in active listening, referral services on campus and diverse topics affecting mental health;

Whereas, the PSN has a representative on the SSMU Mental Health Committee but currently is neither an Interest Group nor a SSMU service;

Whereas, the Mental Health Services currently have a wait-time exceeding 4 months, is not currently able to expand clinical hours due to budget restrictions and has communicated that they expect demand for services to increase next year and thus there is a need for additional support services for students;

Whereas, the PSN currently operates out of the McGill's Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, and is restricted to operating only 4 hours/week due to lack of available, suitable space;

Whereas, the SSMU approved a Mental Health Policy and Mental Health Five-Year-Plan on February 20, 2014<sup>1</sup>;

Whereas, the SSMU Mental Health Five-Year-Plan aims to create "permanent space in the SSMU building dedicated to mental health on campus", with a proposed timeline of "by the end of the 2015-2016 academic year";

Be it resolved, that the SSMU strengthen its partnership with the PSN;

Be it resolved, that the SSMU, through the office of the VP University Affairs, support the PSN and advocate for space(s) on campus to expand their operations;

---

<sup>1</sup> SSMU Policy and Plan Book, page 90.

<http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/SSMU-Policy-and-Plan-Book-2015-03-26.pdf>



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 VP University Affairs, in collaboration with the VP Clubs & Services, prioritize the creation of a permanent, physical space in the SSMU building dedicated to mental health, as per Section G of the Mental Health Five-Year-Plan, and consult and work with relevant mental health groups on campus in the creation of this space

Moved By:  
Chloe Rourke, Senate Caucus Rep  
Zachariah Houston, Science Rep  
David Benrimoh, Senate Caucus Rep  
Nancy Zhang, Music Rep

#### APPENDIX A – SECTION G OF THE MENTAL HEALTH FIVE-YEAR-PLAN

##### **G. Space and Support for Mental Health Groups**

*Timeline: by the end of the 2015-2016 academic year*

Groups represented on the Mental Health Committee will be able to access room bookings through the VP University Affairs. Additionally, permanent space in the SSMU building dedicated to mental health on campus will be created and managed by the Mental Health Committee. The space will serve as a central location for students with mental health inquiries.

Goals:

- To improve accessibility to booking rooms in the SSMU building for mental-health related events and groups by having a dedicated space for these purposes
- To acquire space dedicated to mental health in the SSMU building, to be managed by the Mental Health Coordinator and the Mental Health Committee
- To offer a student-run mental health space to offer resources and information to students, and provide referrals to appropriate services on campus
- To help bring students in crisis to Mental Health Services; for this goal, it will be necessary to ensure that the space is staffed with students with mental health first aid training
- To offer a safer space on campus for the discussion of mental health issues
- To serve as a space for group therapy or peer support sessions