



Legislative Council - April 5th, 2018

Motion Regarding the Service Status of Arab Student Network

Whereas, the Arab Students' Association is a SSMU club that concerns itself with implementing a perspective of secular and non-political representation of the broad enriched culture of the Arab world.

Whereas, the Arab Students' Association has been active as a student group on campus since 1962 and has demonstrated a long-term financial and institutional sustainability;

Whereas, the SSMU has demonstrated commitment towards the integration and inclusivity of all students, especially those who identify as marginalized groups; recognizing that there is a growing demand for Arab cultural representation and the need for installation of related resources on campus for which the Arab Students' Association fills a gap;

Whereas, the application to become a service requires that groups meet three of five requirements (Resource, Education, Support, Referral, Awareness) of which the Arab Students' Association mentions all five. (See Appendix A)

Whereas, there is a substantial interest from the general student body towards understanding and engaging in Arab culture and language, the Arab Students' Association will provide the resources required to sedate these interests.

Whereas, following an application process, the Services Review Committee has recommended that the Arab Students' Association whose name will be changed to the Arab Student Network be approved as a SSMU Service by the Legislative Council;

Whereas, the institutional support associated with becoming a SSMU Service will enable the Arab Student Network to expand their support to a greater number of McGill students;

Be it Resolved, that the Legislative Council grant Service status to the Arab Student Network.

Moved by:

Jemark Earle - Vice President (Student Life)



Office of the Parliamentarian | Bureau du parlementaire
Tel: (514) 398-6800 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | parliamentarian@ssmu.ca
3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

Corinne Bulger - Arts Representative
Jennifer Chan - Arts Representative
Tre Mansdoerfer - Senate Representative

Appendix A

Resources:

APPROVED



The direct resource that students will receive is the appropriate representation of apolitical and secular events of a higher pedestal. With a substantial number of students identifying as Arabs, this will ensure their further integration along with further strengthening the diversity of events presented under SSMU for the entire student body.

Upon acquirement of service status, ASN will aim to implement an Arabic Language SSMU mini-course in response to the overriding demand illustrated by the general student body and the excess supply of tutors approaching us about such interest. The course can focus on the spoken Arab dialect rather than the traditional literature which has no present effect in conversation. We aim to use this to revive “Arab Language Cafe”, a drop-in service where students can drink free coffee in exchange for listening or participating in Arabic conversations. For simplicity, this will be held beside the potential office and will be held on a monthly basis.

Following the contacts established after forming the inaugural ArabFest, we felt the need to add VP Academics for the introduction of a digital portal that includes all the Arab professionals in their diverse fields of which we have dealt or communicated with. In the present, contacts of several professionals in the field of banking, media, medicine and engineering were retrieved from collaboration with Tollab, a Lebanese student federation in Montreal. The progression to a

service will allow us to continue to work hand-in-hand with Montreal’s grand Arab body representatives to deliver higher quality unique events and to further diversify the reach of professionals for the student body. This will be displayed in a tab under “Resources” on the service website and will be divided based on market field. This will be a referral service mediated by VP Academics to better connect students to professionals in their desired field.

The knock-on effect will allow us to implement an annual networking event that invites students, alumni and professionals to converse with the student body for the prospects of opportunities, jobs or even internships. To clarify, all service events including this are open to the general student body.

Support:



For direct support, the implementation of a service will introduce a number of councils that focus on the philanthropic events, academic events and cultural events presented by the body. This will immediately open up opportunities for students in terms of their extra-curricular matters and diversify the experiences that a student can retrieve.

The Arab Students' Association has been receiving a substantial number of requests that demand a tutor pairing service. This will introduce a mentorship portal that pairs students with elder members to pass on advice or academic knowledge. In terms of referral, the volunteering tutors will receive an official certificate of recognition that includes the number of hours and nature of their service signed by the ASN President and VP Academics.

For Arabs that have shown a propensity to excel, the ASN aims to reward and recognize their efforts by providing an annual award that directs an adequate grant towards the subsidy of the student's tuition. This grant will be assessed based on well-rounded achievements in academics, extra-curricular, professional market etc.

Depending on available funds and success of the grant, in future years other awards may be introduced that focus on raising awareness about the equality of women, the most improved association member etc.

We strive to further connect students to their Arab cultures by creating a digital exhibition through our website, that will highlight influential Arab women, important historical leaders, Arab trail blazers, writers, poets, scientists, business leaders, and McGill community members among more. The page will also celebrate a post for the national days of the Arab countries to create a more supportive and culturally diverse atmosphere in that regard.

Referral: Referral points are weaved in descriptions of Resources, Support & Awareness.

Awareness:



Office of the Parliamentarian | Bureau du parlementaire
Tel: (514) 398-6800 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | parliamentarian@ssmu.ca
3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

In addition to the posting about influential individuals, the ASN will raise awareness about natural disasters, women equality and economic stats about countries of the Arab world. The news can include stock market fluctuations, weather broadcasts and trivia. The descriptions will be neutral and will not affiliate to a certain party or religion.

The ASN will have a council under the VP Events that focuses on implementing philanthropic events that raise funds for causes and disasters along with including job crawls for refugees, volunteering opportunities for students and events that directly are placed to raise awareness (runs, bakesales etc.). Other events can also include focus on women equality, cancer runs, etc.

We aim to also introduce posts about McGill Arab Students to raise awareness about their achievements, background stories and accomplishments to the public. This will be done similar to the style of the known facebook page: Humans of New York.

Education:

Education points are weaved in descriptions of Resources, Support & Awareness.

APPROVED



Appendix B (Justification)

1. Why club status is no longer the best fit for your group

As a full status club, we are faced with the monetary and influential restriction of being able to sedate the academic needs of the student body regarding the Arab culture. It is difficult to run a tutoring service along introducing a SSMU mini course whilst trying to implement cultural events that relate to the diverse culture of the Arab world. Therefore, the expansion of the operational structure of a service will allow for the introduction of student councils to take part in coordinating the aforementioned events along with ensuring the exclusive portfolios of the EC members. Many Arab students have approached the association in the aim of getting involved, however due to the current limitation in structure, we were not able to grant that opportunity.

In addition, being the Arab Student Association, we are usually contacted by external corporate in the expectation to answer about all Arab affairs occurring in the university. As a service, we will be able to directly communicate with corporate and other large Arab bodies and thus oversee Arab events and operations occurring on campus.

Even though we are regarded to lead the quality of cultural Arab events, having our status remain as an association will not grant us the ability to adequately and formally coordinate between other Arab student associations and set standards. The recognition of an Arab Student Network will also illustrate SSMU's continuous aim of further integration and representation and will make new-coming Arab students feel supported and recognized.

2. How your club will benefit from being granted Service status

Upon acquirement of Service status, our club will be able to have the adequate channel of communication to directly appeal to large Arab bodies and external corporate. It will enable us to formally coordinate and unify Arab student associations on campus and to ensure their apolitical and secular constitution. In addition, having ASN will allow us to unify the Arab student body and will allow us to act as an umbrella organization for other Arab associations, resulting in more direct media coverage and support.

In addition, we will be able to sedate the quality of events needed relative to the extensive number of Arab students on campus. We want to reach a level of events that do not resonate



the present division of the Arab world, but rather inspire and integrate the student body to improve the community around them.

The extension of the budget will also allow us to introduce academic events that sedate the needs of the general student body and will grant us the respect and influence needed to implement them.

3. How members of the SSMU will benefit from your club being granted Service status

SSMU will directly benefit from the further diversification of its Services and the progression of the prospects of student body integration and installing social life. The advancement of ASA to a service will illustrate the solidarity of SSMU with student representation and its focus on allowing students the chance to reach the quality of events they require.

The installation of a service will also introduce more opportunities for extra-curricular involvement and a chance to further inflate your social life.

SSMU will also have its first ever spoken Arabic mini-course. This will illustrate a further diversity in culture recognition.

More importantly, SSMU will receive the deserved recognition of allowing for the formation of an Arab Student Network and will illuminate its stance with those who feel marginalized in whatever way that could be possible.



Office of the Parliamentarian | Bureau du parlementaire
Tel: (514) 398-6800 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | parliamentarian@ssmu.ca
3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

Appendix C (Budget)

APPROVED