POLICY ON ACCESSIBLE EDUCATION

Adopted by Referendum: 2015/03/20
Expires: 2020/01/01
Adopted Motion (Link)

WHEREAS, the Couillard government has imposed austerity measures and cuts of approximately $205 million dollars to University funding;

WHEREAS, this translates to around more than $20 million dollars in cuts to McGill University alone;

WHEREAS, the Quebec government increased French student tuition this year by around 180% (from $2300 to $6600);

WHEREAS, in 2008 McGill University successfully lobbied the Québec government for a deregulation of tuition fees for six programs (Applied Science, Mathematics, Engineering, Computer Sciences, Management, and Law);

WHEREAS, the Politique québécoise de financement des universités released this year and similarly calls for deregulation of out-of-province and international tuition in all programs and at all levels;

WHEREAS, the Students’ Society of McGill University (SSMU) has previously had a Policy Regarding Accessible Education (2007) and a Motion Regarding Renewing Support for Accessible Education (2012);

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU adopt the following policy regarding accessibility to postsecondary education to expire on January 1, 2020:

a) Support for high-quality, universally accessible post-secondary education as a human right;

b) Opposition to any mechanism or legislation that would permit a non-consensual increase in student fees for any student, whether Quebecker, Canadian, or international;

c) Call for a public re-investment in post-secondary education from all levels of government;

d) Call for the elimination of all financial barriers to a high-quality post-secondary education, and advocate for a progressive reduction of tuition fees for all students, including the eventual replacement of any and all ancillary and tuition fees with alternative methods of funding post-secondary education; and

e) Work with elements of the Quebec and Canadian student movements that share these goals.
Moved by:
Amina Moustaqim-Barrette, Vice-President (External Affairs)
Kareem Ibrahim, Senate Caucus Representative
Nancy Zhang, Music Representative
Patrick Dunbar-Lavoie, Arts Representative