



# POLICY ON CAMPUS FREE FROM HARMFUL MILITARY TECHNOLOGY

Adopted by Legislative Council: 2015/04/09

Expires: 2020/01/01

[Adopted Motion](#) (Link)

A roll call vote was requested for clauses 1-3 and the results are included in the Legislative Council Resolution Book.

**WHEREAS, the SSMU Constitution commits the SSMU “to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, [and] social justice”,<sup>1</sup>**

**WHEREAS, the development of harmful military technology, including drones and thermobaric explosives, occurs on McGill campus (see **Appendix 1**);**

**WHEREAS, McGill students have historically taken action against the development of harmful military technology on campus, including adopting a SSMU Policy on Transparency in Military Research<sup>2</sup> (2008-2013); adopting a motion to “oppose all ties between McGill University and ANY military efforts, including investments in military contractors and weapons manufacturers, weapons research, and research for government agencies that contributes to military action”<sup>3</sup> (2012-2013), and effecting the creation of a clause in 1988 in the Regulation on the Conduct of Research requiring military agency-funded research to indicate “whether [the] research has direct harmful consequences”<sup>4</sup> before undergoing review for approval;**

**WHEREAS, the aforementioned clause was removed from the Regulation in 2009 during its previous triennial review, leaving no mention of research applications in the Regulation aside from an unelaborated note on “social responsibility”<sup>5</sup> in the preamble;**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/SSMU-Constitution-English-2013-11-15.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/SSMU-Policy-Book.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/GA-Motion-Opposition-to-Canadian-Military-Involvement-in-Iran-2012-10-15.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2010/03/speaking\\_out\\_against\\_military\\_research\\_since\\_the\\_80s/](http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2010/03/speaking_out_against_military_research_since_the_80s/)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.mcgill.ca/files/secretariat/Conduct-of-Research-Regulation-on.pdf>



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*Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories*

**WHEREAS**, McGill has remained non-transparent<sup>6</sup> about the extent and nature of military-funded research on campus, including taking McGill students to court regarding Access to Information requests seeking disclosure of these funding relationships;

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the SSMU renew its stance of opposition to the on campus development of military technology intended to inflict harm on people. (15Y: 6N: 5A)

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the SSMU support campaigns opposing the development of harmful military technology on campus through the office of the Vice-President (External Affairs).

Be it resolved, that the SSMU support student research opportunities that do not contribute to the development of harmful military technology through the office of the Vice-President (University Affairs).

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the SSMU lobby the University to adopt higher standards of transparency with regard to the sponsors and intended applications of research contracts.

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the Vice-President (University Affairs) advocate for the delineation of “social responsibility” and the criteria to be used to weigh the “potential benefits against the possibility of harmful applications” to evaluate the permissibility of research contracts.

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** this policy be valid for five years and expire on January 1, 2020.

Moved By:

Claire Stewart-Kanigan, *Vice-President (University Affairs)*

Amina Moustaqim-Barrette, *Vice-President (External Affairs)*

Patrick Dunbar-Lavoie, *Arts Representative*

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/mcgill-asks-for-permission-to-ignore-access-to-information-requests/article7775571/> ;  
<http://blogs.canoe.ca/davidakin/journalism/mcgill-university-seeks-to-ban-its-own-student-journos-from-filing-ati-requests-on-it/> ;  
<http://demilitarizemcgill.com/access-information/released-documents/>



## APPENDIX 1

These projects include, but are not limited to:

The **McGill Aerospace Mechatronics Lab** currently holds contracts with the Department of National Defence for purposes of developing “unmanned ground, air, and marine vehicles ... and [building] 3D world representation models of the urban battle space to improve soldier situational awareness”<sup>7</sup> (\$380,000 contract<sup>8</sup>), and an unmanned ground vehicle (UGV) to “[support] military missions in complex operating environments”<sup>9</sup> (\$245,000 contract<sup>10</sup>).

Members of **McGill’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering** worked on missile guidance systems technology from 1999 to at least 2010 in collaboration with Lockheed Martin—a multi-billion dollar guided missile system and military technology manufacturer—Technicon military researchers in Israel, and Defence Research and Development Canada (\$230,600 funding from DRDC<sup>11</sup>).

The **Shockwave Physics Group (SWPG)** conducts research in collaboration with the Canadian and US military at McGill with McGill professors on thermobaric explosives. The SWPG also conducts research on air-breathing propulsion funded by Defence Research and Development Canada.<sup>12</sup> Projects titles include “Measurement of the Limit of Shock Precompression and Induction Delay Time of Liquid Explosives”<sup>13</sup> (2001) for DRDC, “Near-Field Impulse Effects from Detonation of Heterogeneous Explosives”<sup>14</sup> (2001), and “Interaction of a blast wave with a metalized explosive fireball”<sup>15</sup> (2010).

See <http://demilitarizemcgill.com/military-research/> for further information.

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<sup>7</sup>[https://www.scribd.com/fullscreen/239795292?access\\_key=key-WHO1liHNHSxCsJRu1l2O&allow\\_share=true&escape=false&show\\_recommendations=false&view\\_mode=scroll](https://www.scribd.com/fullscreen/239795292?access_key=key-WHO1liHNHSxCsJRu1l2O&allow_share=true&escape=false&show_recommendations=false&view_mode=scroll) p.15

<sup>8</sup> <http://demilitarizemcgill.com/military-research/aerospace-mechatronics-lab/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.scribd.com/doc/239795238/McGill-DRDC-Degree-of-Freedom-Robot-p.3>

<sup>10</sup> <http://demilitarizemcgill.com/military-research/aerospace-mechatronics-lab/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://publications.gc.ca/collections/Collection/D1-14-2000E.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> <http://demilitarizemcgill.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/HigginsGoroshin-Powdered-MetalHypersonic-Ramjets-2001.pdf> ; <http://people.mcgill.ca/files/andrew.higgins/cv.andrew.higgins.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <http://people.mcgill.ca/files/andrew.higgins/cv.andrew.higgins.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.mcgill.ca/mecheng/fr/node/140>

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.mcgill.ca/mecheng/fr/node/1164>