



# MOTION REGARDING ENDORSING THE STATEMENT ON TUITION DEREGULATION 2019- 02-28

Submitted for: February 28, 2019

**WHEREAS**, the Students' Society of McGill University ("the Society") adopted a Policy on Accessible Education on March 20, 2015 calling for the elimination of financial barriers to high-quality post-secondary education;

**WHEREAS**, the Government of Quebec has announced the deregulation of tuition fees for international students in all fields of study beginning in Fall 2019;

**WHEREAS**, the deregulation of tuition for international students is antithetical to the Society's Policy on Accessible Education;

**WHEREAS**, international students already pay tuition fees that are up to eight times higher than Quebec students<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, 30.1% of McGill University's total student body is comprised of international students (Fall 2017) and 7,967 of all undergraduate students are international students (Fall 2018)<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, tuition deregulation would have further effects on Francophone and Regional Universities in Quebec;

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the Society stand in solidarity with McGill University's international students, Quebec Francophone Universities, and Quebec Regional Universities in opposing the deregulation of tuition for international students;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT** the Society add its name to the letter being sent by the Association générale des étudiant(s) de l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (AGE-UQTR) to Jean-François

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<sup>1</sup> AGE-UQTR, Francophone and Regional Universities Under Threat, para. 1

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.mcgill.ca/es/files/es/fall\\_2018\\_-\\_total\\_full-time\\_and\\_part-time\\_vis\\_a\\_enrolments\\_by\\_countries.pdf](https://www.mcgill.ca/es/files/es/fall_2018_-_total_full-time_and_part-time_vis_a_enrolments_by_countries.pdf)



Office of the Speaker | Bureau du président du conseil

Tel: (514) 398-6800 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | speaker@ssmu.ca

3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

*Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories*

Roberge, Quebec Minister for Education and Higher Education opposing deregulation of tuition for international students.

Moved by:

Tre Mansdoerfer, *President*

Jun Wang, *Vice-President Finance*

Andre Lametti, *Senate Caucus Representative*

Garima Karia, *Arts Representative*

Maxence Frenette, *Engineering Representative*

APPROVED



## APPENDIX A

### Francophone and Regional Universities Under Threat

While unveiling its new policy on university funding, the Government of Quebec announced the complete deregulation of tuition fees for international students in Quebec, beginning in the fall of 2019. The new Minister for Education and Higher Education, Jean-François Roberge, has stated that Coalition Avenir Québec will maintain this decision and give universities the power to decide how much they charge international students in each academic program. Until now, a 2008 deregulation of tuition fees for international students was limited to only six fields of study: pure sciences, mathematics, engineering, computer science, business, and law. Through its decision, the government has given in to lobbying efforts by certain universities that view these tuition rates as a business opportunity, allowing them to address their chronic underfunding through international student recruitment. It should be noted that international students already pay up to eight times more in tuition fees than other students in Quebec, according to a study by the Quebec Student Union.

One of the adverse consequences of this deregulation will be to exacerbate the competition and inequalities between universities. Without question, Francophone universities will be the first to suffer under this new policy, especially those located in Quebec's outlying regions—such as the Université du Québec network. Because these institutions lack the resources of Anglophone universities in Montreal, existing differences in funding between universities in urban centres and outlying regions will only widen.

Universities in outlying regions face numerous challenges in attracting and retaining international students, yet the government is now responsible for a policy that is being implemented to their detriment. Many university programs are under threat, as they depend on the presence of international students to remain viable.

Another impact of this new deregulation will be to compel certain Francophone universities to begin offering programs in English in the hopes of increasing revenues. This possibility has already been raised by the Rector of Université Laval, Sophie D'Amours. This perverse incentive could threaten the continued perennity of French in our universities. Our institutions of higher education must strive to fulfill their mission: supporting the needs and aspirations of Quebec society.



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While Quebec is in the midst of a growing labour shortage, the CAQ government believes that this decision will be to the benefit of higher education in the province; the reality is altogether different. Deregulation will only serve to undermine universities in outlying regions, relegating them to a second-class status. For all of these reasons, we— X associations representing XXXXXX students—call on Minister Roberge to suspend deregulation until the government undertakes a study on the impact of such an increase on Francophone and regional universities.

[Names of the signatory associations  
here]

APPROVED