



MOTION ON SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR PROFESSOR 2019-03-28

Submitted for: March 28, 2019

WHEREAS, the SSMU must maintain its commitment to an outright ban on an undergraduate-professor student relationships.

WHEREAS, the SSMU commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection (See SSMU Constitution).

WHEREAS, the SSMU must commit to setting a precedent for standing in solidarity with and actively supporting survivors

WHEREAS, incidents related to sexual assault and sexual violence are an ongoing phenomenon not just at McGill, but at campuses across the country. (see Policy on Consent Education and Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence-Related Policy Advocacy).

WHEREAS, cultural change regarding consent and sexual violence requires long standing commitment through advocating for and building institutional change and maintaining regular campaigns has been recommended to SSMU. (See Policy on Consent Education and Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence-Related Policy Advocacy).

WHEREAS, Students across Canada have made it clear that the institutional silence and neglect which plagues our universities cannot be tolerated (see GSVP Report).

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU sign on as an official signatory on the call for university of Windsor to defend and support Dr. Julie MacFarlane (see Appendix A).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU publicize this decision and share the petition with students to the best of its ability by the VP internal on applicable platforms.



Office of the Speaker | Bureau de président du conseil
Tel: (514) 398-6800 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | speaker@ssmu.ca
3600 McTavish Street, Suite 1200, Montréal, Québec, H3A 0G3
Located on unceded, Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory

Moved By:
Ana Paula Sanchez, *Arts Representative*
Garima Karia, *Arts Representative*
Caitlin Bazylut, *Nursing Representative*
Tre Mansdoerfer, *President*

APPROVED



APPENDIX A

CALL FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR TO DEFEND AND SUPPORT DR. JULIE MACFARLANE

>>To sign onto this letter, please fill out this form [HERE](#)

<<<

If your student group wishes to sign-on, please email chair@sfcccanada.org

**For all Media Inquiries please contact Connor Spencer at chair@sfcccanada.org

For context, please read [this article](#) by Dr. Macfarlane

Dear:

Dr. Douglas Kneale, Interim President and Vice-Chancellor
Professor Jeff Berryman, Acting Provost
Mr. William J. Willis, Chair, Board of Governors
Mr. Christopher Waters, Dean of the Faculty of Law

We are writing this letter in support of Dr. Julie Macfarlane, who is currently being sued for defamation for speaking up about a predatory former colleague, and who the University of Windsor is failing to support.

Students for Consent Culture Canada (SFCC) is a national student survivor-led organization working to end campus sexual violence by building a network between student unions, community organizations, and other advocates. Our team is comprised of students from campuses across Canada, including the University of Windsor.

Across the country, we are seeing a rise in defamation suits as powerful men in post-secondary institutions are called out for their harm, suits filed against both professors and students in some cases. Current and future students at UWindsor, as well as students across the country, are watching that you are choosing not to stand up for anyone who



names and reports harm when they see it. We, as students and student survivors, are deeply alarmed by the University's failure to defend Dr. Macfarlane against a lawsuit threatening her for the actions she has taken to protect the safety of students at the University of Windsor and elsewhere, including those put at risk by the non-disclosure agreement in this case.

NDA's create an impossible dilemma for whistleblowers trying to protect students and prevent future sexual misconduct. By agreeing to an NDA, a university washes their hands of the responsibility to provide honest information about sexual misconduct or allegations of sexual misconduct that they are aware of. In doing so, they make whistleblowers vulnerable to defamation suits that are hard to defend in the absence of honest information.

Dr. Macfarlane's work opposing [the university's use of Non-Disclosure Agreements](#) is crucial to supporting the work of student survivors at a grassroots level on campuses across the country, and we stand in solidarity with her as we all fight to rid our institutions of practices that condone and uphold rape culture and abuses of power on our campuses. We urge you to reach out to Dr. Macfarlane and take immediate action to defend her against the defamation suit she is now facing.

We stand up for the professors who stand up for us.

We look forward to your prompt response and the actions you take to address this issue.

Sincerely,

Connor Spencer, McGill University BA '18
SFCC National Chair

Cherlene Cheung, University of Windsor JD/MSW Candidate
SFCC Advocacy Coordinator

Sam Rockbrune, York University, MA Socio-Legal Studies
SFCC Outreach Lead

Tia Wong, University of Victoria
SFCC Education Lead

Emma Cox, McGill University BA '16
SFCC Education Coordinator

Caitlin Salvino, University of Oxford, MPhil (Law)
SFCC Advocacy Lead



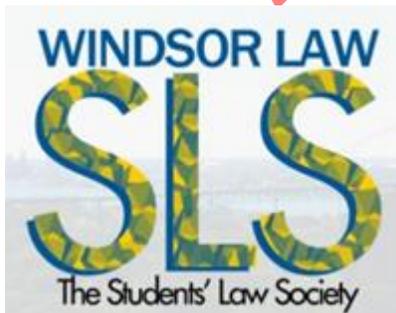
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Anne Moreau, University of Ottawa BA '18
SFCC Education Coordinator

Karan Saxena, University of Manitoba
SFCC Outreach Coordinator

Student Group Signatories:

1. Students for Consent Culture Canada
2. Advocates for a Student Culture of Consent (Wilfrid Laurier University)
3. Student's Law Society: University of Windsor (SLS)
4. Windsor OUTLaw
5. Rotaract Club of Windsor 1918
6. Concordia Student Union (CSU)
7. Silence is Violence - U of T
8. Justice for Women - University of Manitoba
9. World Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies Student's Association (WIMESSA) - McGill
10. Sexual Assault Centre of McGill's Student Society (SACOMSS)
11. Women and the Law: Windsor (WATL)





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