

General Assembly Resolution Book

Resolutions Passed at the SSMU's General
Assemblies

2017-2018

2018-2019

Updated as of 2019-02-25





Students' Society of McGill University

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

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

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

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2017-2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS



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October 23, 2017

MOTION REGARDING THE NOMINATION OF THE AUDITOR FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2018

WHEREAS, the audited financial statements prepared by Fuller Landau were approved at the September 28th, 2017 Legislative Council meeting;

WHEREAS, the decision for auditor needs to be approved by members-at-large during the General Assembly;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Fuller Landau is chosen as the Auditor for the 2018 Fiscal Year



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MOTION ADVOCATING FOR SSMU TO URGE MCGILL UNIVERSITY'S PARTICIPATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION'S SYRIA CONSORTIUM FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN CRISIS

WHEREAS, the number of Syrian refugees now exceeds 5.2 million individuals, of which 500,000 individuals are between the ages of 18 and 22;

WHEREAS, based on pre-war enrollment rates, 20% of Syrian students were qualified for university admission, and now only 5% are;

WHEREAS, Syrians face an “academic emergency” due to a breakdown of higher education within their country, resulting from frequent attacks on university campuses, dangerous roads leading to campuses, and overall displacement because of the war;

WHEREAS, the maintenance of a population of educated students and the prevention of a “lost generation” is necessary for the post-conflict development of Syria;

WHEREAS, the Institute of International Education (IIE) is addressing this emergency by creating the Syria Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis, which includes universities and colleges worldwide who offer scholarships to assist Syrian students;

WHEREAS, dozens of prestigious institutions, including Columbia University, Brown, Dartmouth College, Johns Hopkins, Tufts University, and others have joined the consortium and are offering scholarships to Syrian students;

WHEREAS, the Society “commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice and environmental protection” and “groups, programs and activities that are devoted to the wellbeing of a group disadvantaged because of irrelevant personal characteristics” and displaced Syrians students would provide a unique contribution to both the McGill and Montreal community;



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WHEREAS, McGill students are seeking to assist Syrian refugees through campus-wide fundraisers, collection drives, and hundreds of students have signed in support for a campaign to join the IIE Consortium;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Students Society of McGill University, through the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs) advocate for McGill University to join the IIE's Consortium for Higher Education in Crisis to commit to offering scholarships to students displaced by conflict, notably Syrian students, in the form of partial or full scholarships;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SSMU recommend to McGill University that the Office of the Provost release a statement detailing the funding for reserved scholarships and spaces that it will provide to educationally displaced students, including Syrians, by the end of the 2017-2018 academic year.

Sources:

1. <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>
2. <http://www.uis.unesco.org/DataCentre/Pages/country-profile.aspx?code=SYR®ioncode=40525>
3. http://www.iie.org/Blog/2012/November/Syria-ESF#.V_wAN2V-i-l
4. http://www.iie.org/Programs/Syria-Scholarships#.V_wArmV-i-l
5. http://www.iie.org/Programs/Syria-Scholarships/Join-the-Consortium#.V_aA0GV-i-l
6. <http://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/SSMU-Policy-and-Plan-Book-2017-03-23.pdf?x26516>
7. <http://www.books-not-bombs.com/mcgill>



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MOTION REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE SSMU SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

WHEREAS, the SSMU is committed to sustainable practices and leadership on our campus, in Canada, and around the world;

WHEREAS, the SSMU passed a Sustainable Policy in March 2012;

WHEREAS, the commercialization of bottled water puts people and the environment at grave risk due to an excessive release of carbon emissions, the depletion of natural water sources, and the release of microplastics into public drinking and natural water sources;

WHEREAS, in 2009, the SSMU General Assembly passed a resolution to counter the distribution and consumption of plastic water bottles;

WHEREAS, the SSMU has a moral imperative to operate with sustainability at its forefront, including third-party operations that take place within the University Center;

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the SSMU demonstrates initiative in decreasing the quantity of waste that the building produces;

WHEREAS, the current Sustainability Policy does not prevent the sale and distribution of bottled water in the University Center and the distribution of plastic take-out containers that cannot be composted;

WHEREAS, the Waste Reduction and Diversion Action Plan that is soon to be published by the McGill Office of Sustainability showed a 15% diversion rate (defined as the successful diversion of all materials that can be recycled or composted from the landfill);

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Policy does not currently outline how the policy will be enforced and by whom;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the SSMU Executive present a report on the progress of the implementation of the Sustainable Policy at each General Assembly



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that section 3.2 of the Internal Regulations of Student Groups be amended to include a mandatory Sustainability Workshop as a requirement to maintain full club status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSMU Sustainability Policy be amended to include a section on implementation and accountability, as follows:

SECTION 8: IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

EVENTS:

The SSMU will be actively encouraging for events held within the University Center to use only reusable materials, mandating that events held within the University Center to use only reusable materials, mandating that events held within the University Center use only compostable materials if disposable materials are used at all. The SSMU will also be mandated to eliminate the distribution of bottled water and non-compostable disposable materials during all internal events affiliated with the SSMU, such as but not limited to, Orientation (Frosh) and 4Floors.

VENDORS:

The SSMU will encourage all vendors that sell food and beverages to stop the sale of bottled water in the University Center. Failure for a vendor to comply with this policy will factor into tenant negotiations and further will be asked to attend a review meeting carried out by the Environmental Commissioner(s) and supervising SSMU Executive.

CLUBS AND SERVICES:

Clubs and Services must attend a minimum of 1 Sustainable Event Planning workshop per year, facilitated by the Vice-President (Student-Life) and Sustainability Commissioner(s) to further support the implementation of sustainability in the club or service's operations. Failure to attend will factor into club status. Clubs and Services who are found to be in repeated violation (1 or more) of this policy will attend an obligatory meeting with the Sustainable Events Planning Team or Sustainability Commissioner(s). If violations continue, Clubs and Services in question will be subject to a review by the Clubs Committee and Services Review Committee, respectively. The SSMU Executive staff are included in the zero-waste policy, wherein they are mandated to use reusable or compostable containers in the distribution of food or beverage in meetings and trainings.



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OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY:

In order to facilitate education on campus with regards to the reduction of waste generated by disposable containers and water bottle use, the Vice-President (University Affairs) and President will actively lobby McGill University to eliminate the sale and distribution of bottled water on the McGill campus.

Additionally, the Vice-President (Student-Life) will distribute information to all Clubs Services, and the student body on issues pertaining to bottled water and promote the sustainable alternative of tap water, other sustainable methods of water distribution, and readily available services, such as The Plate Club.

Sources:

1. <http://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/Policy-Manual-Updated-December-9-2010.pdf>
2. <http://ssmu.ca/blog/2009/10/ssmu-institutes-ban-on-water-bottle-sales-in-university-centre/>
3. <http://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/SSMU-Sustainability-Policy-2013-04-11.pdf>



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MOTION FOR SSMU TO CONDEMN THE DISCIPLINARY ACTION BEING TAKEN AGAINST MASUMA ASAH KHAN

WHEREAS, there has been a rise of a conversation of “neutrality” in Canadian politics, including the student movement;

WHEREAS, the rhetoric of “neutrality” is inherently harmful and antithetical to the work expected of any student union and its representatives that is mandated to advocate for the increased access to postsecondary education;

WHEREAS, the SSMU Indigenous Solidarity Policy states that its aim is to “further [...] commitment by undertaking public awareness campaigns that recognize under-addressed components of Indigenous history...”, and “to commit the SSMU to prioritizing Indigenous voices and histories in its activities”;

WHEREAS, Masuma Asad Khan, the Vice President Academic and External at Dalhousie Student Union is facing disciplinary procedures through the Dalhousie Student Code of Conduct for her anti-colonial activism which was an official campaign of the Dalhousie Student Union;

WHEREAS, the censuring of Masuma Asad Khan is an attack on student unions’ abilities to mobilize and support their marginalized student members;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the SSMU officially condemn the discipline being taken against Masuma Asad Kha,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSMU External Affairs Office disseminate a statement from the External Affairs facebook page condemning Dalhousie University’s action, and put together an email template for SSMU members to be able to use in order to express their opposition to Dalhousie’s using the Student Code of Conduct to discipline Khan.

Sources:

1. http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2017/10/21/dalhousie-student-masuma-khan-investigated-for-canada-150-comments_a_23251247/



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MOTION CALLING FOR A CONCRETE ACTION PLAN FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATION DISPLACEMENT FROM THE SSMU BUILDING IN 2017

WHEREAS, the SSMU recognize a policy titled “Policy on Clubs and Services as SSMU’s Highest priority” understanding that SSMU’s “primary obligation” is to student groups;

WHEREAS, the necessity to meet is essential to the organization, development, maintenance and well-functioning of groups representing minorities both on and outside campus, including but not limited to indigenous, social and religious activist groups as well as francophone groups;

WHEREAS, while building maintenance is necessary, so are SSMU building services such as Midnight Kitchen that provide cost-efficient meals for students and services such as the Players’ Theatre, that uphold the culture of both McGill and Montreal;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the SSMU Executives be required to meet with club and services representatives with 7-10 working dates following a relocation information request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSMU publicly commits within their jurisdiction to ensuring that all clubs and services be relocated to spaces that are accessible, cost effective, and can provide the same services as in the current SSMU building.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, if the SSMU themselves cannot find a space for a displaced club or organization, SSMU will announce their solidarity financially.



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MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ratified separately on January 18, 2018 due to a question of constitutionality.

WHEREAS, the decision needs to be approved by members during the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, Council approved by Council's nominations at the October 12th, 2017 Legislative Council meeting;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following individuals be nominated to the Board of Directors:

Vivian Campbell,
Jemark Earle,
Madeleine Kausel,
Maya Koparkar,
Noah Lew,
Mana Moshkforoush,
Josephine Wright O'Manique,
Jessica Rau,
Alexandrew Scheffel,
Kevin Zhou.



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March 26, 2018

MOTION REGARDING THE POLICY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A FALL READING BREAK

WHEREAS, 61% of Canadian universities have already implemented four or more study days in the Fall semester;

WHEREAS, evidence suggests that a Fall Reading Break reduces stress levels in students, particularly first-year students;

WHEREAS, a 2015 survey of 5112 students conducted by Enrollment Services found that 71.5% of respondents were in favour of a Fall Reading Break;

WHEREAS, a Proposal for a Fall Reading Break at McGill University has already been developed;

WHEREAS, the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) has supported proposals for a Fall Reading Break in the past;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the SSMU renew its stance of support for a Fall Reading Break at McGill University;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSMU support campaigns for the implementation of a Fall Reading Break at McGill University through the offices of the Vice-President (External Affairs) and Vice-President (University Affairs);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSMU through the Office of the Vice-President (University Affairs), lobby the University to implement a Fall Reading Break at McGill University as soon as possible;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSMU, through the Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs), lobby the provincial government for legislation implementing a Fall Reading Break;



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSMU encourages the Senate Caucus to pursue implementation of a Fall Reading Break until said break is implemented or this policy expires;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this policy be valid for five years until April 1, 2023, when it will be brought back to the membership for renewal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Motion be brought to the SSMU membership for approval during the 2018 Winter Referendum period under the question:

“Do you agree that the Policy on Implementation of a Fall Reading Break be adopted as a policy of the SSMU?”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SSMU Legislative Council endorse the adoption of the Policy on Implementation of a Fall Reading Break.

Moved By:

Muna Tojiboeva, SSMU President

Danny Dinh, PTOT Representative

Anthony Koch, First Year Council representative



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2018-2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS



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October 29, 2018

MOTION REGARDING THE NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, the appointment of Directors needs to be approved by members-at-large during the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, the Legislative Council approved the nominations of Garima Karia, Bryan Buraga, Mu Rong Yang, and Andrew Figueiredo as Councillor nominations at the September 27th, 2018 Legislative Council meeting;

WHEREAS, the Nominating Committee approved Jessica Rau, Kyle Rubenok, and Jonah Levitt as Members at Large for the Board of Directors;

WHEREAS, Jacob Shapiro, Matthew McLaughlin, and Jun Wang are the eligible SSMU Executives who can serve on the Board of Directors.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following individuals be appointed to the Board of Directors:

1. Garima Karia,
2. Bryan Buraga,
3. Mu Rong Yang,
4. Andrew Figueiredo,
5. Matthew McLaughlin,
6. Jacob Shapiro,
7. Jun Wang,
8. Jessica Rau,
9. Kyle Rubenok,
10. Jonah Levitt,
11. Lucille Xiang.



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Moved by:

Tre Mansdoerfer, President

Sophia Esterle, Vice-President Student Life

Brandon Hersh, Dentistry Representative

Gareth Price, Engineering Representative

Fair Lyons, Science Representative



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MOTION REGARDING THE NOMINATION OF THE AUDITOR FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OF 2019

WHEREAS, the appointment of auditor needs to be approved by members-at-large during the General Assembly;

BE IT RESOLVED, that FL Fuller Landau LLP is chosen as the Auditor for the 2019 Fiscal Year.

Moved by:

Jun Wang, Vice-President Finance

Tre Mansdoerfer, President

Brandon Hersh, Dentistry Representative

Gareth Price, Engineering Representative

Fair Lyons, Science Representative

Bryan Buraga, Senate Representative



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February 25, 2019

MOTION REGARDING ADOPTION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY STANDING RULES

WHEREAS, “Standing Rules” shall mean the rules of procedure created and amended by the Legislative Council, in accordance with the mechanism provided by Rules of Order, which govern the procedures of the Legislative Council and General Assemblies;

WHEREAS, the Standing Rules for the General Assembly may be adopted by the Legislative Council at in advance of the General Assembly as stipulated in 4.1 of the Internal Regulations of Governance.

WHEREAS, the Standing Rules should facilitate an effective and accessible process;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council approve in principle the Standing Rules included in Appendix A for the Winter 2019 General Assembly

Moved by:

Tre Mansdoerfer, President

Maxence Frenette, Engineering Representative

Bryan Buraga, Senate Representative

Appendix A

Standing Rules for the Winter 2019 General Assembly

1. The most recent version of Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the manual outlining the parliamentary procedure during the Winter 2019 General Assembly, subject to the regulations prescribed for within the Constitution and Internal Regulations of the Society.
2. A default speaking time of two (2) minutes shall be enforced; speaking limits for reports shall be five (5) minutes.
3. Amendments considered ‘friendly’ to all movers of a motion will be automatically incorporated without requiring a vote.



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4. Members who wish to address the assembly shall wait in line at one of the microphones to be recognized by the Speaker and be granted speaking rights, or be exempted from this requirement by the Speaker
5. After every 5 members speaking on a given question, or at the Speaker's discretion, the Speaker shall entertain subsidiary and privileged motions (e.g. motions to amend, call the question, recess or adjourn).
6. Before entering voting period on substantive motions, the Speaker shall allow time for all members currently waiting to enter the room to be given voting cards.
7. Members addressing the assembly shall address the Speaker, stay on subject and refrain from personal attacks. Courtesy shall be strongly enforced by the Speaker with the right to rule statements out of order at their sole discretion.
8. Motions to table or postpone indefinitely will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority.



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MOTION TO ENDORSE THE STUDENT WALKOUT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

WHEREAS, the 2018 report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that the effects of 1.5 degrees of warming are far more catastrophic than previously thought, but will nonetheless prevent hundreds of millions of deaths worldwide as compared to 2 degrees of warming;

WHEREAS, we must cut global CO2 emissions by 45% by in less than 11 years and reach net zero by 2050 in order to limit warming to 1.5 degrees, necessitating aggressive climate legislation to elicit deep emissions reductions across all sectors;

WHEREAS, SSMU is committed to sustainability and passed a Sustainability Policy on April 11, 2013, an updated version of the Sustainability Policy on March 29, 2018, and Climate Justice Policy on March 26, 2015;

WHEREAS, climate change has and will continue to disproportionately affect marginalized communities, who have also contributed least to global carbon emissions;

WHEREAS, SSMU updated its Equity Policy on April 5, 2018, and is committed to recognizing and challenging current and historical processes of oppression;

WHEREAS, SSMU has historically endorsed student movements in lines with its values of human rights, social justice, and environmental protection , such as the Endorsement for the Popular Demonstration Against Racism and the Far Right on November 12, 2017, and the Endorsement of the SSMU Survivor Bill of Rights on January 25, 2018.

BE IT RESOLVED, that that the SSMU publish an official public statement endorsing the McGill student walkout on Friday, March 15, to demand governmental and institutional action in line with the IPCC report's recommendations to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the SSMU Executive is mandated to send a delegation to the McGill Student walkout under the Vice-President (External) portfolio.

Moved by:



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Submitted to General Assembly for approval on February 24th, 2019.

Appendix A

Student Walkout for Climate Justice

McGill students are responding to a worldwide call for a student climate strike on March 15th. McGill students are joining students from Concordia, l'Université du Québec à Montréal, l'École de technologie supérieure, l'Université de Québec à Chicoutimi, l'Université Laval à Québec, Collège de Montréal, and cégep Montmorency, cégep Lionel Groulx and cégep Saint Laurent.

The movement's demands are as follows:

1. That the government establish a climate change education program, in partnership with youth;
2. That the government adopt climate legislation as recommended by the IPCC to limit global climate warming to 1.5 degrees. The IPCC demands a global net reduction of CO2 emission by 45% by 2030, zero net carbon emissions by 2050, and 50% reduction of methane emissions by 2050;
3. That academic institutions show greater transparency concerning their investments, divest from fossil fuels, and re-invest in renewable energy.