



MOTION REGARDING THE CREATION OF AN AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING COMMITTEE 2019-10-10

Submitted for: October 24, 2019

WHEREAS, average housing costs in Montreal exceed tuition rates for Quebec students, and rival tuition rates for out-of-province students;¹

WHEREAS, McGill students pay significantly more in rent than any other student population in Quebec;²

WHEREAS, the *Unité de travail pour l'implantation de logement étudiant* (“UTILE”) is a non-profit company whose primary mission is the construction of affordable student housing units and cooperatives;

WHEREAS, UTILE has worked with the Society since 2014 to examine the realities of student needs regarding off-campus housing, and has been in communication with the Office of the Vice-President (External Affairs) over this past summer;

WHEREAS, in Winter 2019, students voted overwhelmingly to pursue affordable student housing with UTILE or a similar entity;³

WHEREAS, there is an evident need for student consultation in a project which is partially funded by students and which will affect the lived experiences of students;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Committee Terms of Reference Book be amended to include the Affordable Student Housing Committee, detailed in Appendix A;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT committee nominations be held immediately to fill the two (2) seats reserved for Councilors on this Committee.

¹ [McGill University Student Housing and Dining Service Centre: “Size and Cost”](#)

² [The McGill Tribune: “UTILE proposes an affordable student housing project for McGill”](#)

³ [Elections SSMU: “Results - SSMU Winter 2019 Executive Elections and Referendum”](#)



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APPROVED



APPENDIX A

AFFORDABLE STUDENT HOUSING COMMITTEE

- 1) **OVERSIGHT.** The Affordable Housing Committee shall be a Committee of the Legislative Council.
- 2) **GENERAL.** The Affordable Housing Committee shall explore avenues for securing and promoting affordable student housing, as well as advising developers regarding students' priorities in housing arrangements and design.
- 3) **RESPONSIBILITIES.** The Affordable Housing Committee shall:
 - a) Conduct adequate research into the problems surrounding housing in the City of Montreal.
 - b) Plan consultation sessions with students and student groups to get a better understanding of their housing desires and needs.
 - c) Liaise with the Unité de travail pour l'implantation de logement étudiant (UTILE) and other groups aiming at affordable housing options, to both plan constructions and give input into the design of constructions.
 - i. One member of the Affordable Student Housing Committee, elected from among its membership, shall sit on UTILE's governing bodies to steer its approach in helping secure affordable student housing.
 - d) Promote existing affordable housing options to the student body in collaboration with the Communications department of the SSMU.
 - e) Work with the Legal Information Clinic at McGill to inform students about their housing rights, particularly as this pertains to rent increases.
- 4) **MEMBERSHIP.** The Affordable Housing Committee shall consist of:
 - a) The Vice-President (External Affairs) (non-voting Chair)
 - b) Two (2) Councillors;
 - c) Two (2) Members at Large;
 - d) A Member from the School of Urban Planning.
- 5) **MEETINGS.** The Affordable Student Housing Committee shall meet monthly, unless special business comes to the attention of the Committee Members. The committee will be given a full week's notice before a special meeting is convened.
- 6) **QUORUM.** The quorum for the Affordable Student Housing Committee is a simple majority of the voting members.



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- 7) **REPORTING.** The Affordable Student Housing Committee will report to Legislative Council once per semester on the progress of their work.

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