MOTION REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE GENDERED AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

2020-11-19

Submitted for: 2020-11-19

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council

Document no.: LEG-CON-MOT-2020-11-19-001
(to be assigned by Steering)

Moved by: Brooklyn Frizzle
Vice-President (University Affairs)

Current Status: ☑ APPROVED

Seconded by: Noah Merali
Services Representative

Issue

At the request of the Anti-Violence Coordinators, on behalf of the Ad-Hoc GSVP Committee, this motion seeks to adopt a Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy to supersede the current Policy.

Background and Rationale

The Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy (GSVP) was created to provide an intersectional and survivor-centric approach to sexual harassment, gendered violence and sexual violence within the SSMU community.

The GSVP is meant to underline SSMU’s commitment to advocating for addressing campus sexual violence with a holistical approach that includes prevention, support and survivor-centric disciplinary processes.

The SSMU is a unique entity whereby their jurisdiction within the SSMU context is different from the institution of McGill University, whose Policy Against Sexual Violence has limited authority within the SSMU context of employment, clubs or services. The GSVP is intended to fill this gap and complement the existing campus and community structures in place to respond to gendered and sexual violence.
The current GSVP was adopted by the Legislative Council in October of 2018 and, while the Policy will not expire until 2023, numerous insufficiencies and other subjects of concern have been identified in the current Policy. Thus, an Ad-Hoc Committee was struck to oversee the amendment of the Policy. On the recommendation of the SSMU Anti-Violence Coordinators, the Ad-Hoc GSVP Committee, and an internal legal review, the Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy of 2020-11-19 is presented as a holistic replacement to supersede the current Policy, rather than amend it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alignment with Mission</th>
<th>This Motion and the proposed Policy are in line with the SSMU’s mandate to strengthen the “educational, cultural, environmental, political, and social conditions” of its members.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Consultations Completed</td>
<td>This motion and the Policy herein is proposed on behalf of the SSMU Anti-Violence Coordinators in consultation with the Society’s Legal Counsel, the Human Resources Department, and the Ad-Hoc GSVP Committee.</td>
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<td>Risk Factors and Resource Implications</td>
<td>The proposed Policy was drafted to resolve gaps, ambiguities, and insufficiencies found in the current GSVP. Should this motion fail, these concerns will remain unaddressed.</td>
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<td>Sustainability Considerations</td>
<td>The proposed amendments serve to increase the social sustainability of SSMU’s practices and promote a strong, safe and empowering community by endeavouring to minimize systemic power imbalances within society and foster a culture of anti-oppression, as outlined in section 3.2 of the Sustainability Policy.</td>
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<td>Impact of Decision and Next Steps</td>
<td>The results of this motion will be communicated to the SSMU Anti-Violence Coordinators and Human Resources Department who will be jointly responsible for the implementation of the Policy therein.</td>
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Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved, that the SSMU adopt the Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy of 2020-11-19 as a Policy of the Board of Directors;

Be it further resolved, that this Policy comes into immediate effect and supersedes the existing Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy of 2018-10-11.

Results of the Vote

- In favour (25)
- Opposed (0)
- Abstain (0)
Appendix A : Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy

Gendered and Sexual Violence Policy 2020-11-19:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/14w4QdcLbu9CWku3DhS289GJL_AciQC4HRCN5ZusclHI/edit

Final Report of the Ad-Hoc GSVP Committee:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vwqfDDbZkJzLt_u2MtMz7Mj6lsKSDsYvBk0ptqWjs2A/edit?usp=sharing