**Motion to Endorse the Proposed M.A. Program in the Public Life of Arts & Ideas**

Whereas, according to Article 2.1 of its Constitution, the AUS exists to “represent all McGill students in the Faculty of Arts and to promote their welfare and interests”;

Whereas, AUS members often express concerns regarding the relevance of their fields of study and the applicability of their degrees to future careers;[[1]](#footnote-1)

Whereas, the new undergraduate Liberal Arts program, launched in September 2014, seeks to address some of these questions at the undergraduate level;[[2]](#footnote-2)

Whereas, the McGill Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas (IPLAI) seeks to reimagine the role of the Humanities in the public and intellectual spheres through interdisciplinary collaboration and by working to connect a critical, research-based course of study to a life of public service;[[3]](#footnote-3)

Whereas, IPLAI has developed a proposal for a new Master of Arts program in the Public Life of Arts and Ideas (MA-PLAI);[[4]](#footnote-4)

Whereas, the MA-PLAI program seeks to bridge the gap between the traditional humanities research and the working world “by redesigning the humanities MA degree as an interdisciplinary program that incorporates social and cultural policy with arts and cultural management studies, and by greatly expanding the kinds of training and research outcomes available to Masters students in the humanities”;[[5]](#footnote-5)

Whereas, the MA-PLAI program would provide an avenue for many recent B.A., B.A.Sc. and other graduates to pursue research and training that is relevant to both their academic interests and career goals;

Whereas, the MA-PLAI proposal has recently been submitted to various university committees for discussion, including the Faculty of Arts Curriculum Committee;

Whereas, IPLAI is seeking demonstated student support for the MA-PLAI proposal;

**Be It Resolved**, that the AUS Executive write a letter of support to IPLAI regarding the proposed MA-PLAI program;

**Be It Resolved**, that the AUS support IPLAI in obtaining university approval for the MA-PLAI proposal, through channels including but not limiting to its seats on the Faculty of Arts Council and Curriculum Committee.

Moved by:

Erin Sobat, AUS VP Academic

Jacob Greenspon, Arts Senator

Ava Liu, AUS President

1. <http://mcgilltribune.com/news/professors-students-defend-value-of-studying-the-humanities/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.mcgill.ca/study/2014-2015/faculties/arts/undergraduate/ug_arts_liberal_arts> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.mcgill.ca/iplai/about-iplai> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <http://www.mcgill.ca/iplai/ma-plai-survey> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. MA-PLAI proposal (see “Supporting Documents”) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)