



Motion Regarding the McGill Panama Field Study Semester Program Fee Increase

Whereas, FIOs or Frais Institutionnels Obligatoires are mandatory fees charged to students who register for certain courses to cover additional costs associated with that course above tuition;

Whereas, Quebec Provincial law requires FIO increases that exceed than 2.2% to be approved by the student association accredited to represent students in courses where the FIO is charged, before the matter can go before McGill's Fee Advisory Committee;

Whereas, the McGill Panama Field Study Semester (PFSS) program "has been offered yearly for almost 20 years. For all details please refer to www.mcgill.ca/pfss. This program provides a unique opportunity to experience the challenges of achieving transdisciplinarity in order to understand socio-economic and environmental problems in Latin America."

Whereas, the McGill Panama Field Study Semester (PFSS) program is requesting a fee increase of \$520 CAD for the 2016 program, equal to a 10.44% increase from the 2015 program fee of \$4980 up to the 2016 fee of \$5500;

Whereas, Martine Dolmière, Faculty of Science Internship and Field Studies Officer, has provided the following information on the proposed fee increase:

"Our goal is to keep the PFSS affordable. Yet the PFSS has been hit by the drastic fall of the Canadian dollar. As such, activities in the 2016 have been tremendously impacted. That being said, we are committed to keep the academic richness of the program and its viability. Therefore in addition to the allowable 2017 fee increase of 1.5% (approved by the Quebec government) we will ask an additional increase of \$445.30. The program fee will increase from \$4980.00 (2016 price) to \$5500 (2017 price) for a 15-credit semester in Panama.

To offset this increase, students can apply to the Mobility award (\$3000) and LOGIQ (which pays the airfare). Awards are also available through the Faculty of Arts."

Be it resolved, that the AUS Legislative Council approve the increase of the FIO for the McGill Panama Field Study Semester (PFSS) program from \$4980 to \$5500 CAD

Moved by,
Jacob Greenspon, President
Gabriel Gilling, AUS VP Academic