**Motion Regarding Support for SSMU Menstrual Hygiene Products Fee Referendum**

***Whereas***, one of the effects of sexism in Canada is the higher pricing of products labeled “feminine”;[[1]](#footnote-0)

***Whereas***, hygiene items that can be used by any gender, such as toilet paper, can be found supplied for free, but this is not the case for menstrual hygiene products in Canada;

***Whereas***, though the Canadian government has taken steps to address this issue by eliminating any taxation of menstrual hygiene products, this step does not eliminate financial discrimination toward people who experience menstruation;

***Whereas***, through its Equity Policy, the AUS recognizes that “systematic processes and cultural biases disadvantage certain groups of people” and is committed to taking “proactive steps to challenge and acknowledge the current and historical processes and biases that affect the safety and well-being of these disadvantaged groups”;[[2]](#footnote-1)

***Whereas***, on October 20, 2016, the SSMU Legislative Council adopted a Free Menstrual Hygiene Products Policy that aims to provide menstrual hygiene products free of charge in washrooms and Healthy McGill kiosks across campus;[[3]](#footnote-2)

***Whereas***, the creation of a non-opt-outable fee levy of $0.90 per student per semester in order to implement this policy will be put to referendum in the Fall 2016 SSMU referendum period;[[4]](#footnote-3)

**Be it resolved**, that the AUS endorse a “Yes” vote to the question regarding the creation of the Free Menstrual Hygiene Products Fee on the Fall 2016 SSMU referendum;

**Be it further resolved**, that the AUS publicize this endorsement through its website, listserv, and social media;

**Be it further resolved,** that the AUS collaborate with SSMU regarding the advertisement and implementation of this initiative in Arts spaces, should the referendum question pass.

Moved by:

Isabella Anderson, Arts Representative to SSMU

Igor Sadikov, Arts Representative to SSMU

Maria Thomas, Arts Representative to SSMU

Kira Smith, VP Internal

1. <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/partners/Study-of-Gender-Pricing-in-NYC.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <http://ausmcgill.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Equity-Policy-March-11-2015.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Council-Motion-Regarding-the-Free-Menstrual-Hygiene-Products-Policy-2016-10-20.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Council-Motion-Regarding-Free-Menstrual-Hygiene-Products-Fee-and-Health-and-Hygiene-Products-Fund-Referenda-Question-2016-10-20.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)