



Report of Arts Representatives to Legislative Council

September 29 2019

Adin

- Attended SSMU Legislative Council September 26th
- I've been in contact with Lighthouse Labs about the possibility of them doing a learn-to-code session for Arts students
- GA woohoo #weLoveDirectDemocracy
- Met with SSMU Pres to go over goals for the year, met with SSMU VP Finance about the possibility of opening Gerts for winter semester (the building is **super** up in the air so we just don't know what state it will be in and if we'll even have it for January)

Shreya

- Attended SSMU Legislative Council September 26th
- Worked on and attended Arts GA on September 25th
- Met with SSMU President as well to go over goals for the year
- Corresponded with last year's SSMU VP Student Life to work on a potential project

Andrew

- Attended meeting with McGill Food and Dining Services about the New Redpath Cafe. They have lots of cheap, healthy, and good-tasting options that fits perfectly with the needs of students.
- Also spoke with VP Finance about opening Gerts for the Winter Semester. I am going to see if the Finance Committee can develop proposals contingent to what has happened to the building since Winter 2018.
- Helped run the Climate Strike General Assembly
- Looking at the best way to improve club experience for students.

Arts Rep Business

- Last SSMU
 - Indigenous Equity Fee
 - Support of C-JAM and Climate Justice
 - Involuntary Leave Policy
- Upcoming SSMU

- Motion for Moratorium on Fee Referendums until McGill divests from fossil fuels (see attached) (**please give us feedback!**)
- Motion to change Senate and SSMU election proceedings

Respectfully submitted,

Adin Chan, Andrew Chase, Shreya Dandamudi

Arts Representatives to SSMU

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APPENDIX A

NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING POLICY ON MORATORIUM ON MCGILL FEES UNTIL FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT 2019-09-26

WHEREAS, the climate crisis is the most pressing issue faced by our generation;

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry, through its exacerbation of the climate crisis, undeniably causes grave social injury;

WHEREAS, the Students' Society of McGill University ("the Society")'s Constitution declares our commitment "to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice, and environmental protection¹";

WHEREAS, the Society's Climate Change Policy outlines our commitment towards fossil fuel divestment and associated advocacy efforts²;

WHEREAS, the present climate crisis and fossil fuel extraction have, and will continue to, disproportionately affect marginalized communities who have contributed least to global carbon emissions³;

WHEREAS, the Society updated its Equity Policy⁴ at its April 5, 2018 meeting of the Legislative Council and is committed to recognizing and challenging current and historical processes of oppression;

WHEREAS, the McGill University Board of Governors' Committee to Advise on Matters of Social Responsibility (CAMSR) is currently re-considering the matter of divestment from fossil fuels, and is expected to present a recommendation to the Board of Governors by the end of the calendar year;

WHEREAS, CAMSR's previous rejections of divestment from the top 200 fossil fuel companies worldwide^{5 6} raise concerns over their unwillingness to consider student voices and community feedback, and therefore points to the need for student-led pressure;

WHEREAS, monies held by public institutions ought to serve the public interest, which stands opposed to financially supporting fossil fuel companies whose lobbying and extraction activities are directly responsible for the greatest existential threat humanity has faced to date;

¹ <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/SSMU-Constitution-2017-11-10.pdf?x21981>

² <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/F.-Climate-Change-Policy-2018-2019-02-07.pdf?x21981>

³ https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf

⁴ <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Motion-Regarding-the-SSMU-Equity-Policy-2018-APPROVED-2018-04-05.pdf?x26516>

⁵ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2Hz6vYJVRqUT0Y5dUxJTHd5M3c/view?usp=sharing>

⁶ https://www.mcgill.ca/boardofgovernors/files/boardofgovernors/gd15-44_camsr_report_0.pdf

WHEREAS, in addition to those monies provided by donors and kept in an investment portfolio replete with fossil fuel holdings, projects and activities at the University are funded in large part by tuition and other fees paid by students;

WHEREAS, frais institutionnels obligatoires (FIOs), or Ancillary Fees, are mandatory fees charged to students and dedicated toward a particular unit or program, and may cover costs such as technology improvements, student life, support services, and sports or recreational activities;

WHEREAS, aside from annual adjustments for disposable household income per capita (DHIC), the creation or modification of an FIO requires approval from the student body via Referendum⁷;

WHEREAS, Section 6 (Fees), Article 6.3 of the Internal Regulations of Finance states “The Legislative Council and the Board of Directors reserve the right to reject a proposed Ancillary Fee question outright;”

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Society establish a Policy on the Moratorium on considering Referendum questions for new Ancillary Fees, increases to existing Ancillary Fees, or any other new fees or increases to existing fees that McGill University wishes the Society to send to Referendum for approval by the Membership until McGill University:

1. Divests from its investments in companies whose primary business is the extraction, distribution, and/or sale of fossil fuels, per Appendix A; and
2. Pledges to refrain from investing in all companies whose primary business is the extraction, distribution, and/or sale of fossil fuels, and from all mutual funds that invest in such companies in the future;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Society’s Executives be mandated to form a “No” Referendum committee should McGill University forces a vote on new Ancillary Fees, increases to existing Ancillary Fees, or any other new fees or increases to existing fees upon the student body;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Vice-President (University Affairs) communicate this position immediately to the Principal and Vice-Chancellor, the Chair of the Board of Governors, the members of the Board of Governors, the Chair of CAMSR, and the members of CAMSR, per the letter in Appendix B;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT this Policy remain in force until May 1, 2024.

Moved By:

Bryan Buraga, *President*

Seconded By:

Rohan Bhutkar, *Science Representative*

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http://www.education.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/site_web/documents/ministere/organismes/CCAFE/Avis-droits-scolaires-universite_s-2019.PDF