**Motion Regarding Condemnation of McGill Faculty of Arts Promotion of Turkish Academy of Sciences Award**

WHEREAS, an Institute of Islamic Studies professor, Jamil Ragep, accepted an award from Turkish Academy of Sciences;

WHEREAS, the Turkish Academy of Sciences is not an independent organization, but is tied to the office of the Turkish presidency;

WHEREAS, this connection was established by changes to the Decree Law on the Establishment of the Turkish Academy of Sciences in 2011 which gave the government the power to assign members to the institution;

WHEREAS, the award was presented to Prof. Ragep by the Turkish President Erdogan himself;

WHEREAS, Human Rights Watch reported that the president engaged in mass firings without any due process, confiscation of passports, and jailing of academics after a failed coup attempt in 2016, demonstrating a voracious and growing authoritarianism without concern for rule of law;

WHEREAS, the faculty of arts promoted this award through its official Twitter page and newsletter sent out via email by the Faculty of Arts Office;

WHEREAS, McGill University has a diverse group of students that may feel uncomfortable with their faculty standing behind this award;

WHEREAS, President Erdogan has repeatedly denied or trivialized the genocide committed by the Ottoman Empire against Armenians, as well as against Assyrians, Greeks and other ethno-religious minorities between 1914 and 1922;

WHEREAS, AUS commits to take “proactive steps to challenge and acknowledge the **current** and historical processes and biases **that affect the safety and wellbeing** of these disadvantaged groups” (1.3.2);

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, through approval of this motion, the AUS Legislative Council condemns this award’s promotion by the Faculty of Arts. The AUS Legislative Council also calls on all faculties, departments, and other McGill University institutions to reject engagement with political figures or institutions implicated in widespread human rights abuses;

SIGNED,

Andreas Koch (WIMESSA)

Dalton Liggett (HSA)

Alexandra Millar (ASUS)

Moved by: WIMESSA

Seconded by: RSUS