



Agenda of the Fall General Assembly

Adopted by the General Assembly, December 5th, 2017

Food

Registration

Robert's Rules Primer/Reminder

Introduction of General Assembly Staff

- 1) Call to Order**
- 2) Land Acknowledgment**
- 3) Adoption of the Agenda**
- 4) Adoption of the Standing Rules**
- 5) New Business**
 - a) Motion to Bring a Revised Constitution to the Winter General Assembly
 - b) Motion to Oppose the Implementation of Bill 62
 - c) Motion to Mandate Land Acknowledgement Statements at MSS Events and Meetings
 - d) Motion to Establish a Conflict of Interest Policy
 - e) Motion on Quebec Medical Association Membership and McGill Medical Students' Pledge to the Future of Medical Professionalism
 - f) Motion to lobby the Quebec Government to change the language of instruction of FMD lectures at the Gatineau campus from French to English
 - g) Motion to Endorse the FMEQ Positions for the Provincial Lobby Day
 - h) Motion to Aid Out of Province CaRMS Applications
- 6) Reports**
 - a) Report of the Executive Committee
 - b) 5 minute presentation by the Equity Committee
- 7) General Question Period**
- 8) Adjournment**

Duly adopted, December 5th, 2017.



Agenda of the Winter General Assembly

Approved, March 21st, 2018.

Registration

Food

Robert's Rules Primer/Reminder

Introduction of General Assembly Staff

- 1) **Call to Order and Standing Rules**
- 2) **Land Acknowledgment**
- 3) **Approval of the Speaker**
- 4) **Approval of the Minutes**
- 5) **Adoption of the Agenda**
- 6) **Old Business**
 - a) Motion on Quebec Medical Association Membership and McGill Medical Students' Pledge to the Future of Medical Professionalism
- 7) **New Business**
 - a) *Rescinded.*
 - b) A Motion in Support of Unmatched Medical Graduates
 - c) A Motion Modifying the MSS Official Documents
 - d) A Motion in Support of Quebec's Resident Physicians
 - e) A Motion to Create a Vice President Government Affairs and Advocacy as an officer of the MSS General Council
 - f) A Motion to Oppose Physicians' Remuneration Raises and to Support a Strong Public Healthcare System
 - g) A Motion on McGill's Medical Admissions Process
- 8) **Reports**
 - a) 2017-2018 Budget
 - b) *Rescinded.*
- 9) **General Question Period**
- 10) **Adjournment**

Duly adopted, March 21, 2018.

Duly amended, March 21, 2018.

Duly amended, March 21, 2018.



Motion to Adopt the Standing Rules of the General Assembly

Adopted by the General Assembly, December 5th, 2017.

Be it resolved, that the General Assembly of the MSS be held under Robert's Rules, with the following modifications:

- a) The default voting method shall be a **placard vote**. Any member may request a **division of the vote** if they consider the result to have been unclear;
- b) Abstentions shall only be permitted when voting on **main motions**;
- c) A main motion shall be approved **if the votes in favour exceed the votes against**;
- d) The mover(s) of a motion are entitled to a maximum of **three (3) minutes** of speaking time to **present their motions**;
- e) Debate on main motions shall be preceded by a **Question Period** to the movers, lasting a maximum of **three (3) minutes**;
- f) **Debate on main motions**, excluding time for subsidiary motions, shall last a maximum of **ten (10) minutes**; during debate, movers do not have any special speaking privileges;
- g) Debate on **subsidiary** motions shall last a maximum of **five (5) minutes**;
- h) The presenter of a report is entitled to a maximum of five (5) minutes of speaking time, followed by a question period lasting a maximum of three (3) minutes.
- i) The General Question Period shall last a maximum of five (5) minutes.
- j) All the time limits above are **subject to extension** following a majority vote of the Assembly;
- k) The **default speaking time** per Member shall be of **one (1) minute**.
- l) The Assembly may allow a member to speak to a motion beyond the usual **maximum of two (2) times**, following a two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly.

Moved by Liang Chen (M2)

Seconded by Amanda Marino (M2)

Duly adopted, December 5th, 2017.



Motion to Bring a Revised Constitution to the Winter General Assembly

Adopted by the General Assembly, December 5th, 2017.

Whereas, the MSS Constitution is currently disorganized and not compliant with the *Quebec Companies Act (C-38)*;

Whereas, many provisions are currently incomplete, poorly worded, incomprehensible, self-contradictory, or otherwise unenforceable;

Whereas, the MSS held a constitution workshop in May 2017 to explore ways to improve its official documents;

Whereas, a draft Constitution has already been produced, as well as a draft of an Election Bylaw;

Be it resolved, that the Executive Council be mandated to present the following documents, fully reviewed in both official languages, for adoption at the next General Assembly:

- a) The Constitution of the MSS;
- b) The Election Bylaw of the MSS;
- c) The Finance Bylaw of the MSS;**
- d) The Standing Rules of the MSS;
- e) The Committee Terms of Reference of the MSS;
- f) The Internal regulations of Governance of the MSS;**
- g) Any other governance document, if necessary.

Be it further resolved, that the Executive Committee review its composition, with the possibility of removing certain elected positions from the Executive Committee.

Be it further resolved, that the Executive Committee formalize the composition of the Board of Directors, in compliance with the *Quebec Companies Act*.

Be it further resolved, that the position of Secretary be added to the General Council, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors as part of this revision.

Moved by Andre Lametti (M2)

Seconded by Ahmer Wali (M4)

Duly adopted, December 5th, 2017.



Motion to Oppose the Implementation of Bill 62

Adopted by the General Assembly, December 5th, 2017.

Whereas, the MSS Policy on Equity and Diversity states that “the MSS will neither sustain or condone acts of sexism, racism, ableism, classism, transphobia, homophobia and other experiences of oppression.”¹;

Whereas, the MSS Policy on Equity and Diversity states that “the MSS is committed to advocating for social and economic justice for oppressed people, focusing on ongoing struggles of communities served by McGill Medical School.”²;

Whereas, as future health care professionals, we are socially accountable and expected to practice in a culturally sensitive way;

Whereas, the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms states that “no one may, through discrimination, inhibit the access of another to public transportation or a public place, [...], or his obtaining the goods and services available there.”³;

Whereas, the Muslim population makes up 9,6% of the Montréal population⁴;

Whereas, Bill 62 is introduced within a context of systemic islamophobia;

Whereas, Bill 62 may additionally have an adverse impact on members from minority religious communities, when they request an absence from work based upon religious grounds;

Be it resolved, that the MSS oppose the implementation of Bill 62;

Be it further resolved, that the MSS endorse the Open Letter found in Appendix 1;

Be it further resolved, that the members of the MSS refuse to implement the insensitive measures prescribed by Bill 62 while exercising our functions as medical students.

¹ *The MSS Policy on Equity and Diversity*, 3.1

² *Ibid.*, 3.8

³ *Charte des droits et libertés de la personne*, L.R.Q. c. C-12, art. 15

⁴ *Statistique Canada*. 2013. « *Profil de l'Enquête nationale auprès des ménages. - Enquête nationale auprès des ménages de 2011* ». Calculs: Montréal en statistiques.

[http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/MTL_STATS_FR/MEDIA/DOCUMENTS/POPULATION_ET_D%C9MOGRAPHIE_RELIGION.PDF]



Moved by Safina Adatia (M1)

Seconded by Juliette Lemieux-Forget (M2)

Duly adopted, December 5th, 2017.

Appendix I

Statement Opposing Bill 62

As future doctors in Quebec, we feel a need to speak out against Bill 62, *An Act to foster adherence to State religious neutrality and, in particular, to provide a framework for religious accommodation requests in certain bodies*. We are very concerned about this Bill. We believe it is Islamophobic and discriminates against Muslim women who wear niqabs and burqas.

Bill 62, which bans the provision or use of public services, including health care services, by anyone who covers their face, is an attack on Muslim women who wear a niqab or burqa. This bill sends a strong message: Muslim women who wear a niqab or burqa do not belong in Quebec. As the Bill cites security concerns as a justification, it contributes to a societal belief that women who wear niqabs are a security threat, and by extension, all Muslim people are a threat to security. This is a deeply harmful societal belief that encourages and enables violence and discrimination against Muslims. It contributes to the growing anti-Muslim sentiment, which has led to violence and hate crimes committed against Muslim people in Quebec, including the shooting at a Quebec City mosque in January 2017 which killed six people.

Quebec has accepted the responsibility to its citizens to provide healthcare, and is taking dangerous and limiting steps by segregating citizens. We believe this law clearly contradicts the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. In particular, we consider that it violates Article 10 which states, *inter alia*, that every person has a right to full and equal recognition and exercise of his human rights and freedoms without distinction, exclusion or preference based on religion. Furthermore, we consider that it clearly contradicts Article 15, which states that no one may, through discrimination, inhibit the access of another to public transportation or a public place.

We commit to creating hospitals and clinics that are welcoming and supportive places for all patients, regardless of religious belief. We support a woman's right to wear what she chooses, including a burqa and niqab. We will do everything we can to ensure this bill is not enforced at the MUHC, the Montreal General Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, The Jewish General Hospital, and any other McGill teaching site.

Bill 62 is Islamophobic, discriminates against Muslim women who wear niqabs and burqas, and is in clear contradiction with the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms. Laws like this one run directly counter to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and safe society for all. As



such, we will work towards challenging Bill 62. Furthermore, we implore other professionals and members of the community to challenge Islamophobia and work to create a society where religious freedom is respected.



Motion to Mandate Land Acknowledgement Statements at MSS Events and Meetings

Adopted by the General Assembly, December 5th, 2017.

Whereas, the MSS Policy on Equity and Diversity states that “the MSS will neither sustain or condone acts of sexism, racism, ableism, classism, transphobia, homophobia and other experiences of oppression.”¹;

Whereas, the MSS Policy on Equity and Diversity states that “the MSS is committed to advocating for social and economic justice for oppressed people, focusing on ongoing struggles of communities served by McGill Medical School.”²;

Whereas, as future health care professionals, we are socially accountable and expected to practice in a culturally sensitive way;

Whereas, The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) sets out the individual and collective rights to culture, identity, language, employment, health education and land.³

Whereas, in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action the MMS Equity and Diversity supports the implementation of these Calls to Action whenever possible.⁴

Whereas, Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution upholds and enshrines Treaty rights and Aboriginal right and title.⁵

Whereas, the SSMU adopted an Indigenous Solidarity Policy that recognizes the historical and ongoing oppression of Indigenous peoples both on campus and in society at large, and offers commitment to advocating for the issues and priorities identified by Indigenous students, staff, and community members and as such has implemented a traditional territory acknowledgement statement as follows:

“McGill University is situated on the traditional territory of the Kanien’kehá:ka, a place which has

¹ *The MSS Policy on Equity and Diversity*, 3.1

² *Ibid.*, 3.8

³ http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf

⁴ http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

⁵ <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/const/page-16.html>



long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst nations".⁶

Whereas, in section 3.4 of the Indigenous Solidarity Policy, SSMU has committed to increasing the visibility and breadth of land acknowledgements at events and meetings run by SSMU clubs and services.⁶

Be it resolved, that the SSMU Indigenous Solidarity Policy be upheld and implemented during all MSS-run events, meetings and presentations.

Moved by Safina Adatia (M1)

Seconded by Jennifer Robinson (M1)

Duly adopted, December 5th, 2017.

⁶ <https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/SSMU-Indigenous-Solidarity-Policy-2016-04-07.pdf?x26516>



MEDICAL STUDENTS' SOCIETY of McGill University

L'ASSOCIATION des ÉTUDIANT(E)S en MÉDECINE de l'Université McGill

Motion to Establish a Conflict of Interest Policy

Adopted by the General Assembly, December 5th, 2017.

Whereas, the primary obligation of learners is to their education;

Whereas, a conflict of interest has the potential to undermine the learning environment;

Whereas, medical students, as future physicians, should be aware of potential conflicts of interest in their dealings with industry and outside agencies or organizations;

Whereas, the MSS does not currently have a policy regarding conflict of interest;

Be it resolved, that the MSS create a policy regarding conflict of interest, to be presented to the student body at the subsequent General Assembly.

Be it further resolved, that this policy be in line with the MSS Equity Policy and the CMQ Code of Ethics.

Moved by Ahmer Wali (M4)

Seconded by Andre Lametti (M2)

Duly adopted, December 5th, 2017.



Motion to lobby the Quebec Government to change the language of instruction of FMD lectures at the Gatineau campus from French to English

Adopted by the General Assembly, December 5th, 2017.

Whereas, the McGill Faculty of Medicine will open a satellite campus in Gatineau (hereafter, the “**Gatineau Campus**”) in 2020;

Whereas, the Gatineau Campus will have an enrollment of 24 students, thus reducing the number of students at the Montreal Campus by 24;

Whereas, regarding the Gatineau Campus, Dean Eidelman (hereafter, the “**Dean**”) originally announced that FMD lectures would be delivered via videoconference from the Montreal Campus, and that all other instruction would be conducted in French (the “**Proposed Curriculum**”);

Whereas, the Dean stated that the Proposed Curriculum would result in 92% of instruction at the Gatineau Campus being given in French;

Whereas, following the announcement of the Proposed Curriculum, three francophone-rights organizations, including the Société Saint-Jean Baptiste, lobbied the Quebec Government to require that all instruction at the Gatineau Campus, including FMD lectures, be given in French;

Whereas, following pressure by said organizations, the Quebec Government has required that the entirety of medical instruction at the Gatineau Campus, including FMD lectures, be given in French;

Whereas, it is now the intention of the Faculty of Medicine to create a parallel FMD program in French for students at the Gatineau campus;

Whereas, the leading proposal is that FMD lectures at the Gatineau Campus be verbatim translated copies delivered in French by instructors not involved in their preparation or determining their content, and that examinations administered at the Gatineau campus be translated versions of those administered at the Montreal Campus (hereafter, the “**Revised Program**”);



Whereas, implementation of the Revised Program may seriously compromise the quality of medical education at the Gatineau Campus for reasons including, but not limited to:

- a) Diminished quality of lectures: Montreal Campus students will receive lectures from instructors who prepared and are intimately acquainted with lecture materials, while as Gatineau Campus students will receive lectures from instructors who were not involved in their preparation or content;
- b) Unequal forms of assessment: Gatineau Campus students will be assessed by the same examinations, in French, despite any differences in the content of lectures delivered;

Whereas, the McGill Medical Education committee voted in favor of bringing forth said motion;

Whereas, all Canadian medical faculty satellite campuses instruct material via videoconferencing, thus maintaining a high and uniform standard of educational excellence across campuses,

Whereas, the quality of medical education is of primordial importance, and should be privileged over the language of instruction;

Be it resolved, that the MSS actively lobby the Quebec Government to change the language of instruction of FMD lectures at the Gatineau Campus from French to English.

Moved by Alex Derstenfeld (M2)

Seconded by Liang Chen (M2)

Duly adopted, December 5th, 2017.



Motion to Endorse the FMEQ Positions for the Provincial Lobby Day

Adopted by the General Assembly, December 5th 2017

Whereas, the FMEQ requires the approval of its four member schools to adopt a resolution;

Whereas, the FMEQ has chosen to address the topics of pharmacare and vaccines for its provincial lobby day;

1. Pharmacare

Whereas, many drugs are excluded from the current drug coverage and therefore amount to user fees;

Whereas, many Canadians cannot afford their prescription medications, thereby introducing a two-tier system in Canada;

Whereas, drug costs in Canada are among the highest in the world (NCBI);

Whereas, notable savings are achieved by the introduction of a single payer system,;

2. Vaccination

Whereas, vaccination is a major public health issue;

Whereas, the vaccination rate in Quebec has decreased, allowing some eradicated diseases to resurface;

Whereas, physicians have an important social responsibility to promote vaccination;

Be it resolved, that the MSS will endorse the FMEQ's position in favour of an improvement of the medical coverage offered by the RAMQ.

Be it further resolved, that the MSS will endorse the FMEQ's position in favour of the steps taken to obtain universal coverage of medicines.

And,



Be it resolved, that the MSS will endorse the FMEQ's position in favour of raising public awareness of the myths surrounding vaccination and, if necessary, working to deconstruct them.

Be it further resolved, that the MSS will endorse the FMEQ's position to promote vaccination to the authorities.

Be it further resolved, that the MSS will endorse the FMEQ's position in favour of tighter monitoring of the immunization status of children through various public health measures.

Be it further resolved, that the GA mandate the VP External (Quebec) to suggest that the FMEQ General Council consider mandatory vaccination.

Moved by Eloise Passarella (M2)

Seconded by Liang Chen (M2)

Duly adopted, December 5th, 2017.



MEDICAL STUDENTS' SOCIETY of McGill University

L'ASSOCIATION des ÉTUDIANT(E)S en MÉDECINE de l'Université McGill

Motion to Aid Out of Province CaRMS Applications

Approved by the General Assembly, December 5th 2017.

Whereas, the costs of a bilingual pan-Canadian CaRMS application are elevated;

Whereas, obtaining electives on the AFMC portal remains sub-optimal;

Whereas, applications outside of Quebec on the AFMC portal are also not yet optimal;

Be it resolved, that the MSS work to facilitate applications outside of Quebec before and during CaRMS, by:

- a) facilitating the obtention of electives on the AFMC portal;
- b) trying to diminish the administrative complexity of tasks, and the costs, associated with a Pan Canadian bilingual application; and
- c) offering more flexibility for the interviews.

Be it further resolved, that the MSS oppose any law, rule or policy aiming at limiting the interprovincial mobility of medical students and graduates.

Be it further resolved, that the MSS work within the FMEQ to adopt a position on this topic, if need be.

Moved by Eloise Passarella (M2)

Seconded by Liang Chen (M2)

Duly adopted, December 5th, 2017.



Motion on Quebec Medical Association Membership and McGill Medical Students' Pledge to the Future of Medical Professionalism

Postponed from the General Assembly, December 5th, 2017 to the General Assembly, March 21st, 2018.

Referred to Committee by the General Assembly, March 21st, 2018.

Be it resolved, that the question of QMA affiliation be referred to a committee composed of:

- Alexandre Elhalwi
- Ahmer Wali
- Assil Abda
- Liang Chen

and submitted to referendum, and brought to the FMEQ for discussion with other medical school associations in Quebec.

Moved by Alexandre Elhalwi (M3)

Duly seconded

Duly amended, March 21, 2018.

Duly adopted, March 21, 2018.

Whereas, the Quebec Medical Association's (QMA) Student Committee has established and continues to develop a program of educating medical students in medical politics, advocacy, and medical leadership;

Whereas, the QMA's Student Committee has supported students' initiatives, student leadership, and student representation at a local, provincial, and federal level;

Whereas, medical students in Quebec currently benefit from fully subsidized ("free") membership to the QMA, which also gives them access to a host of services, which include member discounts, insurance, exclusive financial services, clinical tools and professional resources, etc. (Appendix I);

Whereas, the QMA will be reinstating registration fees for students as of next year, which are anticipated to be of \$25 per student annually;

Whereas, McGill Medical Students are in accordance with the principles of medical professionalism, the improvement of the healthcare system, and the well-being of the population, which the QMA exists to defend;

Be it resolved, that all McGill Medical Students will automatically become members of the QMA.

Be it further resolved, that all McGill Medical Students will pledge \$20 per year to the QMA, paid through their annual student fees, to be exempt from the anticipated QMA registration rate.

Be it further resolved, that the McGill Medical Students' Society (MSS) will facilitate new McGill Medical Students' registration to the QMA every year.

Be it further resolved, that the QMA's Student Committee will continue to develop projects and training for medical students, and will be more equipped to support students and their representatives.

Moved by Alexandre Elhalwi (M3)

Seconded by Claudèle Brault (M4)



A Motion in Support of Unmatched Medical Students

Adopted by the General Assembly, March 21nd, 2018.

Whereas, there has been a recent increase in the number of unmatched medical graduates (UMGs), a rate of 2.4% after second iteration in the 2017 match;

Whereas, this problem is predicted to worsen over the coming years, with 140 predicted unmatched students after the 2021 match, and over 190 students from previous years applying to the same match;

Whereas, McGill is not immune to these trends, with 18 and 21 unmatched students in the first round of the match in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

Whereas, this is a complex multifactorial issue with multiple stakeholders, including provincial governments, medical students, medical faculties and society at large;

Whereas, there is a limited but important role of UGME in addressing this situation;

Whereas, McGill does not currently offer access to clinical electives, which are essential to a candidate's training and continued clinical exposure, in a "5th year" to UMGs;

Whereas, such programs are currently available in 12 Medical faculties across Canada and have been identified by the AFMC as being very reassuring to medical students;

Whereas, there is a limited number of clinical positions available for clerkship students at McGill affiliated teaching sites;

Whereas, integrating UMGs into these positions has the potential to decrease the quality or quantity of clinical electives to 3rd and 4th year students;

Be it resolved that, the MSS advocate at the FMEQ to bring the issue to the table de concertation for the access to clinical electives for unmatched graduates, in full recognition of its impacts

Be it further resolved that the MSS advocates for increased flexibility in the completion requirements of PIAT and TTR to facilitate accommodations for unmatched students given the matching occurring and affecting these periods.



Moved by Ahmer Wali (M4)

Seconded by Mary Koziol (M4)

Duly amended, March 21nd, 2018.

Duly adopted, March 21nd, 2018.



A Motion Modifying the MSS Official Documents

Adopted by the General Assembly, March 21nd, 2018.

Whereas, the MSS General Assembly adopted the “Motion to Bring a Revised Constitution to the Winter General Assembly” on December 5, 2017, mandating the Executive council to bring forth modifications to the MSS Official Documents;

Whereas, after consultation, the Executive Council has submitted a draft of each mandated document to this General Assembly, which has the power to enact them;

Whereas, the proposed Election Bylaw would benefit from immediate adoption, so that the upcoming MSS election can be held under complete, revised and adjusted rules;

Whereas, the proposed Constitution would benefit from legal review and official translation to ensure it is accessible to all students and in line with provincial regulations;

Whereas, the current Constitution does not call for the election of all the positions of the General Council that would exist under the proposed Constitution;

Whereas, the other proposed documents concerning internal MSS regulations are submitted to this Assembly to allow modifications, but can be adopted by the General Council following further fine-tuning;

Be it resolved, that the Election Bylaw be adopted, effective immediately.

Be it further resolved, that the proposed Constitution be adopted, after translation to French and legal review, no earlier than July 1st, 2018.

Be it further resolved, that the MSS hold elections for those offices described in the proposed Constitution, notwithstanding the current Constitution.

Be it further resolved, that the General Council of the MSS be mandated to further revise and adopt the Internal Regulations of the MSS and the MSS Sponsorship Policy.

Moved by Amanda Marino (M2)

Seconded by Liang Chen (M2)

Duly adopted, March 21nd, 2018.



A Motion in Support of Quebec's Resident Physicians

Adopted by the General Assembly, March 21nd, 2018.

Whereas, the MSS General Council adopted the following statement on February 20th, 2018:

"The MSS General Council stands in solidarity with the ARM and FMRQ in their efforts to secure better working conditions, and encourages MSS members to collaborate with residents undertaking pressure tactics.";

Whereas, the MSS General Council disagrees with the Fédération médicale étudiante du Québec's (FMEQ) opposition to a teaching strike despite their support for the residents' objectives;

Whereas, teaching strikes have been effectively used as one of the only available negotiating tools by both the Fédération des médecins résidents du Québec (FMRQ) and the Fédération des médecins spécialistes du Québec (FMSQ);

Whereas, statements against the FMRQ's strike mandate do not prevent teaching strikes while being detrimental to its negotiating efforts;

Be it resolved, that the General Assembly adopt the following statement:

"The Medical Students' Society stands in solidarity with the ARM and FMRQ in their efforts to secure better working conditions, and calls on its members to support and collaborate with residents undertaking pressure tactics. The MSS calls upon the Ministry of Health to negotiate in good faith with the ARM and FMRQ".

In reference from the MSS General Council

Moved by Liang Chen (M2)

Seconded by Eloise Caterina Passarella (M2)

Duly amended, March 21nd, 2018.

Duly adopted, March 21nd, 2018.



A Motion to Create a “Vice President Government Affairs and Advocacy” as an officer of the MSS General Council

Adopted by the General Assembly, March 21nd, 2018.

Whereas, the Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee (GAAC) of the MSS is currently chaired by a non-elected member of the student body,

Whereas, the GAAC voted in April 2016 to modify the TOR such that the GAAC President be elected by the medical student body,

Whereas, the current GAAC President makes decisions pertaining to national student political action and advocacy projects through the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS), including organizing CFMS Day of Action, attending and selecting delegates to attend CFMS Day of Action, coordinating other national advocacy campaigns and representing the MSS political position at AGMs and SGMs,

Whereas, the majority of GAAC representatives from other universities at the CFMS are elected by their respective medical student body,

Whereas, the GAAC President makes important decisions pertaining to provincial student political action and advocacy projects through the Fédération médicale étudiante du Québec (FMEQ), including organizing FMEQ Journée D'Action Politique, attending and selecting delegates to attend FMEQ Journée D'Action Politique, coordinating other provincial advocacy campaigns and representing the MSS political position at all CGs,

Whereas, the GAAC Chair makes important decisions on the Quebec Health Professional Students' Roundtable (FRESQue), including selection of MSS representatives to the FRESQue,

Whereas, the GAAC is involved in cultivating local grassroots project and hosting successful events at the local level,

Whereas, no additional cost would be incurred as the MSS already funds the GAAC President to attend all CFMS AGMs and SGMs as well as FMEQ CGs.;

Whereas, the level of effort for this change would be minimal to current members of the General Council since it involves including one more position in the electoral process; **therefore**,



Be it resolved, that the MSS create a Vice President Government Affairs and Advocacy on the MSS General Council.

Be it further resolved, that responsibilities would include the following:

- a) To increase medical student awareness about and involvement in health policy issues within Quebec and Canada;
- b) To offer opportunities to members to be active participants in shaping health policy issues of importance to medical students and the patients we serve;
- c) To serve as a direct advisor to the MSS General Council on political matters;
- d) To chair the Government Affairs and Advocacy Committee, a standing committee of the MSS, and organize the selection process of its members, in accordance with the recruitment policy;
- e) To represent the MSS political position at CFMS AGMs and SGMs;
- f) To represent the MSS political position at FMEQ CGs;
- g) To represent the General Council on the CFMS National GAAC Committee and debrief the General Council on activities and decisions of the Committee;
- h) To attend and form a committee to select other delegates to attend CFMS and FMEQ Lobby Days;
- i) To delegate members of the GAAC to help select a topic and organize both CFMS and FMEQ Lobby Days;
- j) To attend and select other GAAC representatives to attend platforms and forums relevant to local, provincial or national politics.

Moved by Ahmer Wali (M4)

Seconded by Nadia Demko (M4)

Duly amended, March 21nd, 2018.

Duly adopted, March 21nd, 2018.



A Motion to Oppose Physicians' Remuneration Raises and to Support a Strong Public Healthcare System

Adopted by the General Assembly, March 21nd, 2018.

Whereas, the Equity Policy requires “The MSS shall demonstrate leadership in matters of social sustainability”;

Whereas, the Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Quebec Federation of Specialist Physicians recently announced an agreement, the details of which remain confidential, increasing the remuneration of the province's 12 009 specialist physicians by 11.2%;

Whereas, Quebec's specialists earn on average \$36,000 more than their Ontarian counterparts and rank third in Canada in terms of salary, even before Quebec's lower cost of living is taken into account according to the latest data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information;

Whereas, doctors rely on allied health care professionals to provide timely, humane, and quality care;

Whereas, many Quebec health system workers are currently fighting for decent working conditions, including nurses, who face recurrent mandatory overtime and deal with dangerous nurse-patient ratios;

Whereas, Quebec public health budget has recently been cut by 30% in the context of austerity measures, while physicians' pay now occupies 20% of Quebec's health budget;

Whereas, many essentials services, such as dental care, eye care, occupational therapy, speech therapy, physiotherapy, and psychotherapy, are not covered or accessible to all;

Whereas, medical students must advocate for their patients, for the population, and for the health care system, using various tools at their disposal such as open letters, protests, and advocacy through their student associations;

Be it resolved, that the MSS oppose the raises of remuneration for physicians and support a fairer distribution of resources across the health care budget;



Be it further resolved, that the MSS mandate its President and Vice-President External Quebec to take a stance at the FMEQ against the recent remuneration raises and to advocate for a better distribution of resources across healthcare services;

Be it further resolved, that the MSS endorse the protest “United for healthcare” organized by Médecins québécois pour le régime public on March 24th.

Moved by Anne-Sara Briand (M4)

Seconded by Julian Nguyen (M3)

Duly adopted, March 21, 2018.



A Motion on McGill's Medical Admissions Process

Adopted by the General Assembly, March 21nd, 2018.

Whereas, the McGill Faculty of Medicine Diversity Statement reads “it is through a diverse Faculty constituency that we are best able to serve our communities and society”;

Whereas, the MSS, in its Equity Policy, calls upon the Faculty of Medicine to “develop admissions initiatives aimed at increasing the enrollment of medical students from underrepresented communities and make transparent the results of these initiatives”;

Whereas, the personal statement was the only component of the application allowing applicants to describe how their unique experiences have prepared them for a career in medicine;

Whereas, the personal statement for admissions to medicine has been removed as of the class of 2022;

Whereas, the Faculty of Medicine Equity Committee has not yet published the data on diversity from the class of 2021;

Be it resolved, that the MSS advocate that the personal statement be reinstated as a component of McGill's medical school application.

Be it resolved, that the MSS, specifically the Executive Committee should raise the delayed publication of the diversity survey results as an issue that needs to be addressed, and collaborate with Faculty Members to implement a strategy to solve this issue.

Be it resolved, that the MSS supports the development of resources to assist applicants much like U of T's Community of support (COS) model.

Be it resolved, that the MSS support an admissions strategy that allows applicants from underrepresented groups in medicine to have their personal statement reviewed in the same way as University of Toronto's Black Student Application Program.

Moved by Julian Gitelman (M4)

Seconded by Doulia Hamad (M4)

With written contribution of Lashanda Skeritt (MD-PhD)

Duly adopted, March 21nd, 2018.