
From : Véronique Bélanger </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BC14AF5CA2724C8DBC75636458E92D5A VERONIQUE.B>
To : Anne Marie Durocher </o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=a16b135a9c3d48618bc7ab154cf04ab1 anne.marie.>
Subject : Re: Requests from students to present on the proposed SSMU Policy Against Genocide in Palestine
Received On : 2023 11 14 8:54 PM

Merci!

Le 14 nov. 2023 à 19:42, Anne-Marie Durocher <anne-marie.durocher@mcgill.ca>; a écrit :

Sorry I did not include you in the below! Just wanted to let you know this message went out.

Best,

AM

Anne-Marie Durocher

D e c o , a g a d O p e a o s | O f f c e o f e o v o s a d V c e - c p a (A c a d e m i c) | M c G U v e s y

D e c e , p a f c a o e o p é a o s | B u e a u d u V c e - p c p a e x é c u f e v c e - p c p a a u x é u d e s | U v e s é M c G

From: Anne-Marie Durocher

Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 7:38 PM

To: Anja Geitmann, Dr. <anja.geitmann@mcgill.ca>; Carola Weil <carola.weil@mcgill.ca>; Elham Emami, Prof. <elham.emami@mcgill.ca>; Guylaine Beaudry, Dr. <guylaine.beaudry@mcgill.ca>; Lesley K Fellows, Dr. <lesley.fellows@mcgill.ca>; Lisa Shapiro <lisa.shapiro@mcgill.ca>; R. Bruce Lennox, Dr. <bruce.lennox@mcgill.ca>; Robert Leckey, Prof. <robert.leckey@mcgill.ca>; Sean Ferguson, Dr. <sean.ferguson@mcgill.ca>; Victoria Talwar, Dr. <victoria.talwar@mcgill.ca>; Viviane Yargeau, Professor <viviane.yargeau@mcgill.ca>; Yolande E. Chan <yolande.chan@mcgill.ca>; Robin Beech, Prof. <robin.beech@mcgill.ca>; Josephine Nalbantoglu, Dr. <josephine.nalbantoglu@mcgill.ca>

Cc: Christopher Manfredi, Prof. <christopher.manfredi@mcgill.ca>; Angela Campbell, Prof. <angela.campbell@mcgill.ca>; Fabrice Labeau, Prof. <fabrice.labeau@mcgill.ca>; Provost Office <provost@mcgill.ca>

Subject: Requests from students to present on the proposed SSMU Policy Against Genocide in Palestine

Importance: High

I am sending this message on behalf of Professor Angela Campbell, Associate Provost (Equity and Academic Policies) and Professor Fabrice Labeau, Deputy Provost (Student Life and Learning).

Dear Deans,

We have heard from some professors in a department that they have been asked by students to offer time in their class or space on MyCourses to present the *Policy Against Genocide in Palestine* that is being voted on currently in the Fall 2023 SSMU referendum. We assume that similar requests will be submitted to instructors in your respective Faculties.

If you have not seen the proposed policy, it is attached for reference. We have communicated to the president of SSMU that our view is that if the proposed policy is adopted the SSMU will be in breach of its own constitution and, consequently, SSMU will have violated its memorandum of agreement with McGill. We are of the view that this proposed policy stands to further sharpen divisions in our community and render more vulnerable all students including those who are Jewish, Muslim, and/or Arab, at a time when many are already distressed.

Individual instructors may feel uncomfortable pushing back on such requests; that being said, if they wish to do so and ask advice

from their Chairs, here is standard language that can be used to do so:

Thank you for your query. Students are free and encouraged to hold and express their views. It is my responsibility as an instructor to ensure that our classroom and other learning spaces associated with our course, including virtual spaces, focus on our course content. I therefore respectfully decline your request.

We would suggest that you inform all your department chairs, so that they have this wording handy to help individual instructors.

Some instructors may feel that it is a good idea to allow students to speak to the benefits of this proposed policy; and, in some very specific cases, it may be argued that their choice would be covered by academic freedom. That being said, it is important to realize that an instructor promoting such a policy in their course will most certainly make a portion of their class uncomfortable, and potentially targeted. As before, we would appeal to everyone's compassion towards our students in order to provide a class environment that is conducive to learning for all.

Thanks in advance,

Fabrice and Angela

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<Policy Against Genocide in Palestine.pdf>
