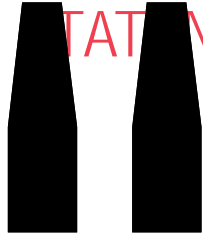




MOTION REGARDING LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STATEMENT ON CAMPUS EMERGENCY MEASURES 2024-10-31



Submitted for: 2024-11-07

Submitted to:	SSMJ Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2024-11-07-004
Moved by:	Abe Berglas Vice President University Affairs	Current Status:	FOR APPROVAL APPROVED POSTPONED COMMITTED NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Mélanie Renaud Athletics Representative		

Issue: A group of councillors wanted to respond to the campus shutdown and injunction.

Background: A working group was formed with the purpose of creating this motion.

Alignment: The motion aligns with the SSMJ commitment to fostering a safe and inclusive environment on campus.

Comments: Other members of the Legislative Council working group.

Recommendation: This statement implicates an email to the SSMJ Listserv but does not otherwise carry risk factors or implicate resources.



APPROVED



Appendix A: Legislative Council Statement on Emergency Campus Measures

This statement was published by the representatives of the Legislative Council. If you have any questions or concerns [please contact your representative](#)

On October 2, an email was sent out on behalf of the Emergency Operations Centre's Rapid Response Group, implementing several restrictions on on-campus access for the weekend of October 5 to 7, including suspending events. The short notice and lack of transparency regarding guidelines for pre-approved events show an absence of consideration by the university concerning organized student life.

On October 8, McGill sent the student body an email titled ***'Injunction to protect McGill's academic mission'*** which included a link to a [provisional injunction](#). This order mandated anyone who read or was aware of the judgment to refrain from protests within 5 meters of any university building. In the ruling, McGill asserted that their latest weaponization of the legal system was an attempt to curtail the "corrosive effect [of protests] on institutional norms regarding freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly."

On October 18, McGill University once again attempted to infringe on students' Charter rights by extending the restrictions of their injunction on the right to protest, only to be swiftly [shut down by the Superior Court](#). This infringement on ***potential*** protests exceeds the scope of norms safeguarding student interests and antagonizes students, staff, and faculty.

The administration's failure to consult faculty members, associations, and students on these actions reveals their true motivation: to muzzle popular discourse and erase entrenched norms of freedom of speech.

The chain of campus restrictions has eroded trust between students and Security Services, contributing to countless anxiety-inducing interactions with security personnel. Security guards have demanded to physically hold students' McGill ID or that students present additional documentation or leave campus earlier than McGill-published times. Many feel the ID process implemented the week of October 7 significantly hindered their ability to navigate campus and was both overly tedious and an abuse of power.

Students have also reported feeling uncomfortable by the presence of undercover security staff dressed in plain clothes, who have sometimes failed to identify themselves. Considering that Security Services theoretically exist to support students in moments of crisis, the purpose of these security guards beyond surveillance and how they contribute to students' safety is unclear if they are not immediately identifiable in case of an incident. With every overbearing restriction imposed by McGill, Security Services is prevented from achieving its mission: "to serve the community in a



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collaborative way where everyone works together to create a safe and secure environment," as per their Welcome Video.

In all cases, the academic or personal challenges faced by our members during this time could have been mitigated or entirely prevented by proactive student involvement. Most glaringly, there is no student representation in the Emergency Operations Centre, in violation of [the Charter of Student Rights](#) and the [Act respecting the accreditation and financing of students' associations](#), which mandate student membership on university bodies creating policy that pertains to students. The SSMJ Legislative Council calls for a public terms of reference for this group which includes at least one student representative per student association.

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