

Denouncement of the McGill senior administration's attempts to deny the right to protest and demonstrate on campus

(VP D&E, rosalind hampton)

Whereas the *Provisional Protocol Regarding Demonstrations, Protests, and Occupations on McGill University Campuses* released by Provost Masi and Vice Principal DiGrappa on 12 February 2012¹ is a breach of McGill community members' rights to freedom of expression as guaranteed in the Quebec and Canadian Charters of Rights and Freedoms;

Whereas Provost Masi and Vice Principal DiGrappa's revised version of provisional protocol released to the McGill community on 30 November 2012 with the intention of making it permanent policy through bringing it to Senate and the Board of Governors in January 2013 was an even further breach of McGill community members' rights such that students², Unions³, and indeed the Canadian Civil Liberties Association⁴ issued public statements and took actions condemning it⁵;

Whereas in the face of such mounting and public pressure senior administrators withdrew the draft protocol on 16 January 2013 stating that they had concluded that "the McGill community will be best served by an agreed-upon statement of values and principles, rather than a protocol of operating procedures, which, by definition, must be sensitive to context and determined by judgment"⁶ BUT confirming that the provisional protocol issued in February 2012 remains in effect⁷;

Whereas *despite the above quoted statement* VP Administration and Finance Michael DiGrappa announced at Senate on January 23rd, in addition to a Statement of Values and Principles, plans to put in place *operational procedures* regarding protests and demonstrations on campus *without* the approval of said procedures from either Senate or the Board of Governors⁸;

Whereas the Post Graduate Student Society at McGill representing EGSS members passed a motion at the January 16th 2013 Council to raise awareness about concerns regarding the protocol and to provide support and mobilize for the wide scale protest of the Protocol that took place on January 23rd 2013⁹

¹ <http://www.mcgill.ca/channels/news/provisional-protocol-regarding-demonstrations-protests-and-occupations-mcgill-university-campuses-214062>

² <http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/McGill+student+files+grievance+over+code+conduct/7797841/story.html>; <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2013/01/detached-disturbing-and-vague/>

³ <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2012/11/unions-denounce-mcgill-protest-protocol/>

⁴ <http://ccla.org/2013/01/15/ccla-speaks-out-on-right-to-protest-on-campus/>

⁵ <http://protesttheprotocol.com/>

⁶ "Update to the Community on the Protocol Regarding Demonstrations, Protests and Occupations" (McGill MRO) 16 January 2013

⁷ <http://mcgilltribune.com/statement-of-values-to-replace-provisional-protocol/>

⁸ <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2013/01/university-to-adopt-permanent-demonstration-regulations-with-no-approval-from-senate/>

⁹ <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/protocol-statement>

Resolved the Education Graduate Students' Society (EGSS) denounce the Protocol and all operational procedures intended to restrict McGill community members' rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association on campus;

Resolved starting January 28th 2013 this denouncement be shared widely with the EGSS membership until the Protocol is withdrawn and there are no operational procedures in place that restrict the right to protest and demonstrate on McGill campuses.

Resolved this denouncement be submitted to the administration via the consultation process that has been instituted.

Passed unanimously