



Motion Regarding the McGill Barbados Tropical Studies Field Study Program Fee Increase

Whereas, FIOs or Frais Institutionnels Obligatoires are mandatory fees charged to students who register for certain courses to cover additional costs associated with that course above tuition;

Whereas, Quebec Provincial law requires FIO increases that exceed than 2.2% to be approved by the student association accredited to represent students in courses where the FIO is charged, before the matter can go before McGill's Fee Advisory Committee;

Whereas, the McGill Barbados Interdisciplinary Tropical Studies (BITS) summer field study program is requesting a fee increase of \$9100 CAD for the 2016 program, equal to a 30% increase from the 2015 program fee of \$7000;

Whereas, Prof. Danielle Donnelly has explained the program fee increase is necessary because:

“due to the decline in value of the Canadian currency against the US Dollar, the BITS program was obliged to go to McGill's Fee Policy Committee to request a revision of our Program Fee. Our dollar is currently hovering around 0.70 USD.

We requested that the Program Fee be raised to the equivalent of \$7,000 USD. The Fee Policy Committee has approved a Program Fee of \$9,100 Canadian. While this looks like a big increase (from \$7,000 to 9,100) there is no increase in purchasing power, only an adjustment based on the Canadian currency value in relation to the US dollar.

... The Program Fee covers room and board (lunch and supper) at the Bellairs Research Institute (McGill's Caribbean Campus) for 5 days per week over the course of the 14 week program, all ground transportation, student visas, course consumables, internet fees, and receptions. It also covers the cost of flights, room at Bellairs and per diem (Canadian equivalent) for the McGill professors teaching in the program, and the program assistant's flight, room and board at Bellairs, and salary. It does not cover student flights, entry visas (required by some international students), tuition, or weekend meals.”

Be it resolved, that the AUS Legislative Council approve the increase of the FIO for the McGill McGill Barbados Interdisciplinary Tropical Studies (BITS) summer field study program from \$7000 to \$9100 CAD

Moved by,
Jacob Greenspon, President
Gabriel Gilling, AUS VP Academic