

From: McGill Daily News news@mcgilldaily.com
Subject: Questions regarding Deputy Provost Labeau's recent statement
Date: March 28, 2022 at 1:23 PM
To: Frédérique Mazerolle, Ms.

Good afternoon, Ms. Mazerolle:


I have a few questions about Professor Labeau's Friday statement, "SSMU referendum outcome." Would Labeau himself, or a representative of the University, be able to answer them for me before Friday at 12:00 p.m.? My questions are as follows:

- Would the University be able to elaborate on the consequences of defaulting the MoA it holds with SSMU?
- Did the University make any attempts to reach out to SSMU prior to threatening to default the MoA? Why has the University chosen to threaten to default the MoA rather than pursuing another course of action to discourage SSMU from adopting this policy?
- Which part of the SSMU Constitution has been violated?
- Could Labeau elaborate on the messages he's been receiving regarding this Policy? Are they from students, companies McGill invests in, alumni, etc.?
- Labeau said that the passage of this policy "can only bring more division to our community." Why does he believe this? Is there any data or student testimonials which justify this claim?
- Labeau wrote that "A policy such as this one cannot be the way in which we [...] address serious and important questions." What does he believe would be a more appropriate way to address this issue?
- Last week, the University expressed support for students' freedom of speech in response to the *Daily's* request for comment regarding the Divest McGill campaign. Among Divest's [demands](#) was the request that McGill divest from companies complicit in Israeli apartheid (e.g., the Oshkosh Corporation and RE/MAX). Considering this, why does the university object to the policy on the grounds that it "echo[es] key tenets" of the BDS movement? Considering that the Policy does not explicitly reference BDS, which parts of the Policy does Labeau take to be reflective of the BDS movement?
- Does the University have any other comments they'd like to add on the Policy or Labeau's statement?

Thank you for your time,
Abigail

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From: Frédérique Mazerolle, Ms. frederique.mazerolle@mcgill.ca 
Subject: RE: Questions regarding Deputy Provost Labeau's recent statement
Date: March 31, 2022 at 12:07 PM
To: McGill Daily News news@mcgilldaily.com

Hi again Abigail,

Please see the statement below in response to your query:

Our top priority is ensuring the wellbeing of our students, faculty and staff and the maintenance of peaceful and constructive dialogue and engagement across our campus. Robust debate is key to what we do and who we are as a University. But such debate cannot be carried out at the expense of respect and inclusion. Policies and initiatives that make members of our community feel unwelcome or rejected on our campuses do not contribute to the advancement of our mission.

Initiatives that create excessive polarization in our community and encourage a culture of ostracization due to students' identity, religious or political beliefs, are in contradiction with the University's values of inclusion, diversity, and respect. In addition, they are also in contradiction with the principles expressed by SSMU in its own constitution and is expected to act in the best interests of all its student members. McGill University has communicated these concerns to the SSMU leadership and advised them to take prompt and appropriate remedial action, consistent with SSMU's obligations under its Memorandum of Agreement with the University.

Our efforts to sustain an open and inclusive university community are necessarily ongoing and concern us all. To this end, the University has tasked Professors Angela Campbell, Associate Provost (Equity and Academic Policies), and Fabrice Labeau, Deputy Provost (Student Life & Learning), with developing an initiative to address and prevent anti-Semitism and Islamophobia on our campuses. To ensure that this work results in concrete, meaningful actions, Professors Campbell and Labeau will consult with stakeholder groups within and beyond the McGill community. Our University is a place of learning, of civil inquiry, of rigorous engagement and discussion. These are essential tools for understanding contested ideas and will serve us well as we address and prevent Islamophobia and anti-Semitism on our campuses.

Kind regards,

Frédérique Mazerolle (she/her/elle)

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