



**PREPARATION BOOKLET FOR THE FEBRUARY 25th AND
26th 2017 CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR
SOLIDARITY AMONG STUDENT UNIONS**

February 20th version

Location

Collège de Valleyfield
169 Champlain St.
Salaberry-de-Valleyfield

Time

Call to order at 9:00 AM

Useful documents for the Congress (available at www.asse-solidarite.qc.ca) :
- Bylaws
- Codes and procedures

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AGENDA PROPOSAL

1. Call to order

1.1. Opening

1.2. Presidium

1.3. Adoption of the agenda

1.4. Adoption of minutes

2. Welcome to member associations

3. Reports

4. Women

5. Elections

6. Notice of motion,

6.1. Submission of notices of motion

6.2. Deliberation on notices of motion

7. Finances

8. Action plan

9. Demands

10. Varia

11. Adjournment

REFLECTION TEXTS

RESIGNATION LETTERS

BILLY SAVOIE'S RESIGNATION LETTER FROM THE ASSÉ RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

(Submitted January 24th, 2017)

Hi,

I'm writing this letter in order to inform you of my resignation from the Research and Academic Affairs Committee. For several reasons, I've decided it'd be best for me to be politically involved in other spaces! See you at the *Rendez-vous national sur la main d'oeuvre!*

KYRIL NYEMTSEV'S RESIGNATION LETTER FROM THE ASSÉ MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

(Submitted February 18th, 2017)

Hello,

I'm sending this brief letter in order to inform you of my resignation from the mobilization committee. This shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone, since over the past few months, my involvement has gradually declined into nothingness. I've recently reached the conclusion that I'm unable to recommit myself to my responsibilities on the national team, and I feel it preferable to resign rather than merely disappearing without explanation.

A combination of different reasons (work, full-time studies, various political involvements in local instances, etc.) have prevented me from fully participating in ASSÉ's projects over the fall and winter, and today I've realized that I'll be unable to correct this situation, at least not in the short term. And for these reasons, I hereby resign. Honestly, I probably should've done so earlier.

Nonetheless, I'm happy for the work I did alongside you, however little my contribution was. I wish good luck to all those who are keeping the ship afloat in these difficult times. I don't doubt for a moment that our struggles will be victorious.

In solidarity,

K. Nyemtsev

CLAUDIA CACHAY-OSORIO'S RESIGNATION LETTER FROM THE POSITION OF ASSÉ COORDINATION SECRETARY

(Submitted February 12th, 2017)

Hello comrades,

With the following letter, I wish to inform you of my resignation from the position of Coordination Secretary. Due to my own health issues and those of my father who was recently diagnosed with cancer, I find myself unable to fulfill my duties.

I wish to thank each and every one of you with whom I've worked, from near and far, in student unions affiliated to ASSÉ or not. You are what makes our organization, but above all else our struggles, thrive.

ASSÉ was born through the efforts of extreme-left and revolutionary activists, and has sought to build a power relationship in a student movement that had been petrified by the Federations. Many of us are anticapitalists, communists, anarchists, radical feminists, antifascists, and more. I'm mentioning it here because we sometimes forget. These roots must never be forgotten, and must serve to remind us that what unites us goes beyond the acronyms of unions or activist groups, but stems from our common condition.

Organisations aren't the shores or the rivers, they're the ships. They're not the destinations, they're the means we've built in order to reach them.

We are in increasingly somber times. The right wing, already dominant as we all know, is advancing in an increasingly brutal fashion in a context where neoliberal capitalism is isolating us more and more. We may feel powerless, but now more than ever, this reality must force us to recognize the need for solidarity and combativeness. I'm not talking about making compromises, or to add a little water to the wine or any other bullshit. I'm talking about remembering who the enemy is, and to find the collective means to fight it, while never forgetting to question them.

In closing, with all my heart, I send you my revolutionary regards.

In solidarity,

Claudia Cachay-Osorio, proud lesbian and Indigenous woman

CANDIDACY LETTERS

OLIVIER GAUDREAU-LACASSE'S CANDIDACY LETTER FOR THE POSITION OF ASSÉ INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY

(Submitted November 26th, 2016)

Hey comrades. I'm writing to you today in order to submit my candidacy on the Executive as Internal Affairs Secretary. I'm currently elected to the Regional Antimontrealcentrism Committee as well as the mobilization committee. My main interest in the position of Internal Affairs Secretary is obviously mobilization, but also in coordinating ASSÉ's decision-making bodies since I like organizing and making sure that everything runs smoothly. Also, the time spent mobilizing and being on the road have made me want to take on more responsibilities. So, in order to help the Executive and continue to exercise my new passion (mobilization), I'm submitting my candidacy as Internal Affairs Secretary.

I'm originally from Mont-Laurier and that's where I first got involved back in 2015 at AGEEM, the Mont-Laurier Cégep's student association. My mandates primarily involved organizing conferences as well as mobilization. When I was first elected, we were an almost entirely new team. So we had to rapidly learn our new responsibilities. Over the course of my two years at AGEEM, we failed to reach quorum at our General Assemblies only once, so the mobilization went pretty well. We also successfully held a one-day strike on April 2nd 2015 and adopted a solidarity mandate with the teachers union. Also during my term, I organized a panel on austerity in a local restaurant where five panelists spoke in front of about 50 students, which is a very large portion of our student population. I also helped organize a café-philosophy on humour as well as on capitalism. Finally, my experience at Mont-Laurier made me want to run for the mobilization committee, which in turn made me want to do more for ASSÉ.

I'm currently registered at Cégep à distance, so for the time being, I'm not currently a member of ASSÉ. However, I'm registered at UQAM as an independent student and I plan on taking a Sociology class and becoming a voluntary member of AFESH at the beginning of the semester.

In solidarity,

Olivier Gaudreau-Lacasse

REPORTS

BILAN DE L'ADÉPUM

(Déposée le 22 février 2017)

L'ADÉPUM va chill :

- Côté mobilisation, nous avons participé au rassemblement syndical contre la venue du ministre Leitaó organisé par le SÉSUM. Nous avons aussi essayé de tenir une journée de grève le 16, mais malheureusement nous avons perdu quorum.

- Côté politique, le recteur Guy Breton joue encore au fasciste en tentant de centraliser à l'extrême la gouvernance de l'UdeM. Nous sommes en train de définir quel rôle peut-on jouer pour contrer les visées marchandes du rectorat. Aussi, nous organisons à l'UdeM un atelier avec la NAPAC (Nouvelle alliance pour l'enseignement de la philosophie au collégial) sur la marchandisation de l'éducation.

- Côté féminisme, dans le cadre de notre plan d'action et en lien avec les semaines d'action féministe, nous tiendrons une semaine de conférence présentant des philosophes femmes, trop souvent ignorées dans notre discipline. Ces conférences s'ajoutent à d'autres ateliers et conférences sur le féminisme qui sont donnés cette session.

- Finalement, à l'interne, nous sommes très occupé par une révision du programme et par l'implantation de mécanismes de correction anonyme, ce qui nous prend beaucoup d'énergies. Nous sommes aussi dans le processus de réviser l'entièreté de nos statuts et règlements afin d'éliminer les glitches. Notamment, nous introduirons enfin de manière formelle et définitive l'alternance homme-femme : y'étais temps, comme on dit !

MOTIONS

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Opening

1.2. Presidium

1.3. Adoption of the agenda

1.3.1. Be it resolved that the following agenda be adopted:

1.0. Call to order

1.1. Opening

1.2. Presidium

1.3. Adoption of the agenda

1.4. Adoption of minutes

2.0. Welcome to member associations

3.0. Reports

4.0. Women

5.0. Elections

6.0. Notice of motion,

6.1. Submission of notices of motion

6.2. Deliberation on notices of motion

7.0. Finances

8.0. Action plan

9.0. Demands

12. Varia

13. Adjournment

Submitted by the Executive Council

(Submitted February 19, 2017)

1.3. Adoption of the minutes

2. WELCOME TO MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

3. REPORTS

3.1. Be it resolved that we hold non-mixed caucuses (Cégeps and Universities) for a duration of one hour on the topic of the state of internal mobilization;

Be it further resolved that each caucus report back to Congress, followed by a one hour plenary on the topic of the results of the annual campaign.

*Submitted by the Executive Council
(Submitted February 19, 2017)*

3.2. Be it resolved that each delegation present a report on the state of their local mobilization.

*Submitted by the Executive Council
(Submitted February 19, 2017)*

4. WOMEN

5. ELECTIONS

6. NOTICE OF MOTION

6.1. Submission of notices of motion

6.2. Submission of notices of motion

6.2.1. Be it resolved that the notice of motion regarding the Antiracist Committee (available in Appendix A) be adopted

*Submitted by the Executive Council
(Submitted November 27, 2016)*

6.2.2. Be it resolved that we modify article 9 “Composition and Definition” of the ASSÉ Bylaws by adding the following phrases to paragraph 2:

“Denounced assaulters not collaborating with the person or persons they have assaulted may not be part of an association’s delegation until such a time as the demands of the survivor or survivors have been met in a satisfactory manner.”

*Submitted by the Women’s Committee
(Submitted December 4th, 2016)*

6.2.3. Be it resolved that the notice of motion regarding pairing (available in Appendix B) be adopted.

*Submitted by AGECD
(Submitted January 22nd, 2017)*

6.2.4. Be it resolved that the notice of motion regarding the Secretary of the Council of Regions (available in Appendix C) be adopted.

Submitted by AGECD

(Submitted January 22nd, 2017)

6.2.5. Whereas a mandate was given to the Executive Council during the Congress of October 8th-9th 2016 regarding the preparatory meetings for the General Summit (“États généraux”) on Higher Education;

Whereas to this day, two of the three conditions of said mandate have been fulfilled (absence of political parties and private corporations in the organization and elaboration of workshops on the agreed-upon issues);

Whereas the meetings about the General Summit on Higher Education are advancing well, and that several gains have been obtained such as the presence of workshops on racism in post-secondary education;

Whereas if ASSÉ doesn’t attend the preparatory meetings on the General Summit, only the student federations (UEQ, FAÉCUM, FEUS, etc.) would remain to defend students’ demands;

Whereas it is difficult to predict if other organizations that don’t have mandates for free education would join in organizing the General Summit, and that such a situation would prevent ASSÉ from participating in and organizing the General Summit;

Be it resolved that the following mandate from the Congress of October 8th-9th 2016 be reconsidered:

« Be it resolved that ASSÉ participate in the organization and events surrounding the General Summit on Higher Education organized by FNEEQ-CSN if and only if:

All participating parties defend free education at all levels

The issues of commodification of education, Cégep-level education, academic autonomy of professors and researchers, academic democracy and mis-financing of post-secondary institutions must be considered during the General Summit;

No political party or representative of the private sector may participate in the organization and events surrounding the General Summit. »

Be it further resolved that “All participating parties defend free education at all levels” be stricken.

Be it further resolved that this striking allow ASSÉ to continue promoting free education towards organizations that don’t have mandates for free education while remaining at the table.

Submitted by the Executive Council

(Submitted January 24th, 2017)

7. FINANCES

7.1. Be it resolved that the permanency and the Internal Affairs Secretary present a report on ASSÉ's finances.

*Submitted by the Executive Council
(Submitted February 19, 2017)*

8. ACTION PLAN

8.1. Be it resolved that we hold non-mixed caucuses for a duration of one hour on the topic of sexual assault in post-secondary campuses.

Be it further resolved that each caucus report back to Congress, followed by a one hour plenary in order to discuss solutions to this problem in the form of an action plan.

*Submitted by the Executive Council
(Submitted February 19, 2017)*

9. DEMANDS

10. VARIA

11. ADJOURNMENT

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A : ANTIRACIST COMMITTEE NOTICE OF MOTION

Be it resolved that “Chapter 11: Antiracist Committee” be added to the Bylaws and that the enumeration of the subsequent articles be correspondingly adjusted.

CHAPTER 11 : ANTIRACIST COMMITTEE

ARTICLE 51 : COMPOSITION

The Antiracist Committee is non-mixed. It is made up of students of colour elected by the Congress as well as people of colour collaborators.

ARTICLE 52 : ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible, candidates must be a person of colour. The persons elected to this body cannot be paid employees of ASSÉ. These same persons also may not receive any salary, bursary or other financial advantage in relation to their status as an elected official.

ARTICLE 53 : AIMS AND FUNCTIONS

The Antiracist Committee aims to promote the struggles of people of colour, Indigenous people, and immigrants in education and in society in all of ASSÉ's various bodies. It must be able to provide the Annual Congress with a report on women's issues. It may also:

1. Produce information material related to its field of intervention in collaboration with the Information Committee and Research and Academic Affairs Committee;
2. Be allocated an antiracist section inside the ASSÉ newspaper, or any other official publication;
3. Organize antiracist actions jointly with regional and local mobilization committees;
4. Assist in creating non-mixed spaces for people of colour;
5. Participate in Coordination Council meetings, where it has the right to submit and second motions;
6. Nominate one person responsible for coordinating the Committee's work, in order to establish a close working relationship with the Secretary-General of the Coordination Council and with the Executive Council.

ARTICLE 54 : CONVENING MEETINGS

The Antiracist Committee meets at least once, when possible, between each Coordination Council meeting.

Be it further resolved that we replace the following phrases in Article 9 (Composition and Definition) in Chapter 3 (Congress) as well as Article 16 (Composition and Definition) in Chapter 4 (Women’s Congress) “The Executive Council, the Coordination Council as well as the Women’s Committee also have the right to present motions” by the following: “The Executive Council, the Coordination Council, the Women’s Committee as well as the Antiracist Committee also have the right to present motions.”.

Be it further resolved that “Antiracist Committee” be added to the enumerations of the Committees and Councils that are elected by Congress, as in the following articles:

Chapter 3: Congress, Article 9: Composition and Definition, items 2 and 3;

Chapter 3: Congress, Article 11: Powers, item 17;

Chapter 4: Women’s Congress, Article 16: Composition and Definition, item 2;

Appendix A: Election Procedures, Article A1: Scope;

Appendix D: Preparatory documents for meetings, Article A15

APPENDIX B: NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING PAIRING

At Chapter 2 of the ASSÉ Bylaws

To add the following as Article 9 and to consequently adjust the following articles.

ARTICLE 9: PAIRING

Every association affiliated to ASSÉ is invited to pair itself with another association in order to improve communication, coordination and relations between associations.

1. The Executive Council defines the pairings between associations during the summer and submits them to the Coordination Council for approval before the fall semester. These pairings are established based on the realities and objectives of each association in order to mutually contribute to one another.
2. These pairings can at all times be modified by the Coordination Council, generally upon request by associations.
3. These pairings are done between associations from different regional councils.
4. The Congress may at all times modify or revoke these pairings.
5. Associations may at all times revoke their pairing if it so chooses.

APPENDIX C: NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING THE SECRETARY COUNCIL OF REGIONS

At Chapter 5 of the ASSÉ Bylaws

To add the following as Article 25 and to consequently adjust the following articles.

ARTICLE 25: SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL OF REGIONS

There are two (2) Secretary of the Council of Regions positions. One (1) Secretary of the Council of Regions position is elected in Congress according to the usual election proceedings. The other position is elected according the electoral proceedings described in the Council of Regions' Charter. Their tasks are the following:

1. Establish the Council of Regions when dormant.
2. Publicize the Council of Regions' convocation and ensure the presence of convened delegations.
3. Represent the Council of Regions in ASSÉ's decision-making bodies.