

Candidacy for Secretary of Academic Affairs

Comrades,

After a long period of pondering the odds I have finally taken the decision to submit my candidacy as Secretary of Academic Affairs (SAA) for the 2015-2016 year. Following two years of involvement in the Research and Academic Affaires Committee (RAAC), I find myself ready to assume these new responsibilities.

The work accomplished by the RAAC and the different persons who held SAA responsibilities is remarkable. By saying this, I want to focus on the fact that such realizations couldn't have been possible without such creative and inspiring teamwork. All who worked in or along the RAAC shared a common vision of producing quality and accessible work. This vision made possible the production of ASSÉ's annual research on public services, which was, in my opinion, an accomplishment. I want to hold the role as SAA in order to preserve that vision and consolidate it within our militant culture. Specifically, I view my role as forming new militants to militant research and introducing the RAAC to new horizons and social issues.

I'm also convinced that ASSÉ works best when its structure is well invested and when its committees are working on engaging projects together. One example of this would be the winter tour of information and mobilisation conferences, which engaged many committees and militants throughout the winter and showed great results. I believe that these projects give ASSÉ an important reach and consolidate our discourse. Therefore, I also see my role as supporting the work of the national team. After all, without its committees, ASSÉ couldn't do much.

Finally, while the present situation regarding mobilisation and austerity requires from all of us our attention, we also must care of the future. The RAAC has been working on the Demers and Hélène-Roy reports on, respectively, collegial formation and universities' funding. These two reports are alarming: administrative reforms of collegial governance in order to support the realignment of technical formation towards employment objectives and market demands, dissolution of collegial general formation, reforms of the funding of collegial and university institutions following quality-insurance and productivity parameters, and the modulation of tuition fees. Globally, it seems we have a three year timeframe ahead of us to think about these reports and prepare a powerful discourse against them: the next student strike could very well be about blocking the reforms inspired by those reports. In any case, I consider thinking and working on this issue a prime task for the SAA, and it is one I would gladly engage, as I'm already quite familiar with the issue.

Some words to present myself: next year I'll be a graduate student in philosophy at UdeM and I'll be writing my masters thesis. Aside from RAAC, I also organized Philopolis for two years. Before that, I was responsible for the mobilisation at my association, ADÉPUM. As for my personal political positions, I'm not a big fan of labels: I do adhere without reservation to ASSÉ's fundamental principles, and I'm also intolerant to the anti-intellectualism and

contempt with which government and private interests alienate the population. For me, ASSÉ is all about having discourses and practices that are intelligent, creative and inspiring.

I would love to meet members and personally answer to their questions. Don't hesitate to contact me at dj.socrate@gmail.com in order to set up a meeting.

Samuel-Élie Lesage