



**PREPARATION BOOKLET FOR THE APRIL 29th AND 30th
2017 ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR
SOLIDARITY AMONG STUDENT UNIONS**

April 25th version

Location

FTQ Québec Chaudières-Appalaches Regional Council Office
5000 des Gradins Boulevard
Quebec City

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

INTERNS' STRIKE, WOMEN'S STRIKE

*By Camille Tremblay-Fournier and Amélie Poirier
(Submitted February 25th, 2017)*

The idea of a women's strike is gaining ground¹. On October 2nd, in Poland, women went on strike for abortion rights. On October 19th, women in Argentina went on strike for one hour in order to denounce the rape and murder of 16 year-old Lucia Perez, and to condemn the media's trivialization of hate crimes. A few days later, women in Iceland and then in France massively walked out of work on the exact minute at which they had worked the same amount of hours as men at equal pay. These movements all have in common the fact that they brought to light the direct link between the oppression of women and the exploitation of their reproductive labour. Around the world, women are precarious because an important part of their labour remains unpaid, their primary tasks still not recognized as work. From unpaid domestic labour to free sexual services, the appropriation of women's time and bodies, as well as the unrecognition of their productive labour, forces them into a situation of increased vulnerability to their bosses, parents, boyfriends, and professors.

The strike that was led by psychology students in the fall of 2016 for paid internships is no stranger to these movements. It confronts the notion that student labour is done for free, the only compensation being grades and credits. This notion doesn't stand up to a simple question: why are some internships paid and others aren't? Opposed to the idea that internships are unpaid because they're part of one's personal training, we argue that the reason stems from the sexual division of labour based on a separation between fields of study and work considered to be either productive or reproductive. How else could we argue that internships in engineering or computer science are almost always paid, while those in teaching are never paid? Undoubtedly, unpaid internships primarily have in common the fact that they're related to sectors associated with caring for human beings and which have historically been occupied by women. For example, in Ontario, 73% of internships that are either unpaid or paid below minimum wage are occupied by women, and this rate reaches 77% in the United States². This is no coincidence: the free labour done in these internships reflects the hierarchy between "male" productive labour and free "female" reproductive labour. Even today, the jobs of social worker, teacher, childhood educator, occupational therapist, sexologist, nurse and mid-wife, among others, are associated with self-sacrifice and a supposedly natural tendency for women to educate and care³. We share the views

¹This text is an abridged version of an article submitted to the web journal *Françoise Stéréo*. The original version [in French] is more detailed and contains several references.

²For Ontario, consult James Attfield and Isabelle Couture, *An Investigation into the Status and Implications of Unpaid Internships in Ontario*, 2014, p. 36. Online. For the United States, consult Gardner, Phil, *The Debate Over Unpaid College Internships*, p.6. Online. We didn't find any overall data for Quebec and Canada.

³Reproductive labour being free is often justified by the difficulty to quantify it, since it's considered a calling, self-sacrifice, or an act of parentage or solidarity. Yet it has no real cost or limit precisely because it isn't recognized as labour; patience, listening, gentleness, smiles, these are all invisibilized tasks of women's labour because they're

of Colette Guillaumin, which state that care-based labour isn't *less* paid, it never is, except when it's submitted to the wage system rather than the patriarchal one. The unpaid internship therefore represents a capitalist exercise in the complete exploitation of women's time and labour.

But why pay for internships in a sector where the work has always been done for free? Because not only is the theft of interns' time at stake, but so is the non-application of labour norms, the lack of financial security, as well as the inadmissibility to employment-insurance and maternity leave for the duration of the internship. Just like housewives, (neo)colonized populations, people of colour, people on employment-insurance, welfare, or who are incarcerated, unpaid students find themselves in a situation of dependency with regards to people with wages. Ultimately, the non-recognition of reproductive labour allows for the perpetuation of the exploitation of the most vulnerable populations and for reduced compensation in work sectors traditionally occupied by women. It would appear as though this wage hierarchy reflects a supposed hierarchy between sexes, races, ages and nations⁴.

We may be small, but that doesn't mean we can't be tall

The moment we recognize that internships are unpaid because they belong to sectors that are traditionally occupied by women, and not because interns are still in training, it becomes impossible to continue to justify the fact that all labour produced during school, both in the classroom and at home, remain unpaid. We argue that studies are unpaid because of the separation of labour between professors and students, which is also based on the distinction between productive and reproductive labour. In that sense, we recognize that teachers' intellectual labour is recognized as work, since it's paid, whereas student labour isn't. However, studying is a form of social reproductive labour as it (re)produces the very merchandise at the base of the capitalist system: the workforce. We argue that from elementary school to university, students acquire standardized skills and knowledge in order to renew the workforce based on the labour market's current needs. But this acquisition isn't done by waving a magic wand: it requires work on behalf of the student. It's therefore paradoxical that a large portion of a teacher's labour, dedicated to increasing students' value on the labour market, be paid, while students' working hours remain unpaid. Yet we're the one doing the largest part of the work: the time spent learning is also time spent increasing the value of our future labour. Exchanges between students, namely in the writing of a common term paper, as well as exchanges between teachers and students, participate in producing value for both parties. The value produced by student labour is both a use-value, in the form of skills and knowledge, and an exchange-value, in the way that a degree increases a worker's monetary value in the labour market. Student labour is the result of an activity and can be appropriated by other people, such as teachers, administrations, and workplaces.

The recognition of studies as labour allows us to highlight how dynamic the learning process is and to politicize the conditions in which it's produced. This is where the subversive power of the demand for student wages resides: students would no longer be kept on the sidelines

defined in terms of character, attitude, or intrinsic natural abilities.

⁴The terms sex, race, age and nation of course not used here in their biological sense; they're constructed through social interaction.

in matters pertaining to the curriculum, to how it's taught, in how learning is assessed, in how student production is valued, and in defining the parameters in which this production is used. The nature of our relationship would go from being "master and apprentice" to that of colleagues. Wages would therefore transform the nature of the authority between teachers and students, namely with regards to sexual and psychological harassment.

It's through, among other things, the nature of the hierarchal relationship between teachers and students within the educational system that violence is reproduced. This truly is the hidden truth of how student labour is exploited⁵. If students' working hours are occupied by school, internships, and if obtaining bursaries or work contracts rests solely on the shoulders of teachers, how can we possibly respond appropriately to the appropriation and exploitation of students' bodies? Abuses perpetrated within the education system are generally trivialized, which gives free reign to situations of racism, sexism, harassment, as well as psychological and sexual violence. Supported by the State, school administrations impose discipline on this free labour, and in cases of violence, ensure the assaulters' impunity.

If granting wages for internships and all of student labour allows us to address the issue of violence between salaried staff and students, it would also allow us to better resist political repression. By considering students as workers, we'd be rid of the clientist or apprentice relationship that allows universities to more easily expel and filter out students who pay (too much) for the privilege to attend their institution. It's namely, but not exclusively, the lack of proper recognition (wages and decent working conditions) that reinforces the submission of students to a school's discretionary power.

Enough time has been wasted!

In the wake of the psychology doctoral students' strike, the CUTE's political campaign aims to encourage interns to organize for a general strike demanding paid internships across all sectors of study. This women's strike can shed light on the true value of the labour we produce. We can demand an end to the theft of interns' working hours, the recognition of their reproductive labour through a wage, and proper working conditions for all involved. This means opening the possibility of politicizing our schoolwork by discussing more broadly about student labour from a fundamentally feminist perspective.

An internship strike, led primarily by women against the historical reduction of their labour to an activity without any productive value, has the potential to reveal the contradictions within the capitalist and patriarchal systems by allowing us to consider the uncovered issue of unpaid internships in work sectors traditionally occupied by women. But that's not all. Although internships constitute the most visible part of our labour and therefore merit wages, the entirety of our training should be paid as well. Student labour being unpaid doesn't make it any less exploitable and, above all, the power relationship between students, professors, and employers in

⁵According to an investigation conducted on six Quebec university campuses in 2016, one in three people has been subjected to sexual violence since the beginning of their degree, and among all respondents, 36% report not having spoken about it to anyone else and the vast majority never filed a complaint. To learn more: Nadeau, Jessica, «*La violence sexuelle, un fléau à l'université*», *Le Devoir*, May 10, 2016.

cases of violence and repression, is reinforced. Being unpaid doesn't necessarily mean being outside of the capitalist wage system's grasp, but rather means being completely submitted to it without any control over the conditions in which our work is carried out. Only when reproductive labour is removed from the informal and naturalized domains can it, through wages, cease to be taken for granted and therefore can become the object of demands within social struggles. Of course, we continue to sell our labour as workers, but also attempt to seize a measure of control over it through struggle, therefore going beyond capitalist logic.

This struggle is, in a way, the student component of the struggle for the recognition of reproductive labour, namely for housewives, sex workers, and migrant workers. Student feminists have every interest in engaging in hostilities with the State on the issue of reproduction, of which school plays an integral part. Politicizing student labour contributes to our understanding of the extent to which free reproductive labour and its implications in capitalist accumulation within the international division of labour.

TO KNOW MORE

- For a student critique of education practicums: Jeanne Bilodeau, « *Les limites de la tolérance: Femmes et formation en enseignement* », *Minorités lisibles*, No.1, 2016, p.34-39.
- On the powers and paradoxes of the women's strike: Valérie Lefebvre-Faucher, « *Grève de la reproduction* », *Mots et images de la résistance*, 2015.
- On the roles of housework, family and school in the capitalist economic system: Mariarosa Dalla Costa & Selma James, *Women and the Subversion of the Community*, 1971, p. 35.
- For a synthesis of the struggle for paid housework in the 1970s: Louise Toupin, « *Le salaire au travail ménager, 1972-1977: retour sur un courant féministe évanoui* », *Recherches féministes*, Vol.29, no 1, 2016, p.179-198.
- On the appropriation of women's time and bodies: Colette Guillaumin, *Sexe, Race et Pratique du pouvoir*. Paris, Côté-femmes, 1992, p. 239.

WHEN MEN ARE PHANTOM ALLIES

*By Élisabeth Béfort-Doucet
(Submitted on March 16th, 2017)*

Being on the 2016-2017 Executive Council, I would like to state that this text represents my personal opinion and not necessarily those of my comrades on the Exec.

Introduction

Let's face it: ASSÉ's in a bit of a slump. Whether or not this slump is part of a cycle or a sign of something bigger is not the point of this text.

In this slump, the activist work done within the national structure is less valued, less well regarded, and less empowering. It's not a glorious job: since the student movement is rather demobilized, we're called upon to do a gritty and exhausting job consisting of endless phone calls, multiple mobilization tours, research, logistics, meetings, preparing Congresses, answering e-mails...

This necessary work to keep ASSÉ afloat is generally invisible, since there's no immediate recognition. It's not doing interviews with prestigious media organizations or organizing strike general assemblies. It's hidden from view and doesn't end with anybody winning any glory or accomplishing any exploits. Seeking visible labour, where recognition translates into social capital, men desert the national team. That is the topic of this text.

Two categories of men have negative impacts on ASSÉ and the women currently involved in it: phantom men, who are either elected by Congress or on an interim basis by the Coordination Council (on rare occasions) and who then disappear, and men in the shadows, false pro-feminists who are involved in student spaces, ASSÉ, or at the local level.

In both cases, these men abandon the mandates that have been given to them by Congress, and pile the job of maintaining an organization that they're contributing to destroy onto the shoulders of women.

Phantom men

Elections are a prestigious moment at ASSÉ. Even after abolishing the requirement of two endorsements from local associations, going before Congress to answer questions in order to be elected is a powerful moment where local associations entrust an individual to accomplish their mandates. Knowing that local associations trust us is a powerful feeling.

Elections at ASSÉ aren't exempt from power dynamics (few things are). I remember, shortly after submitting my candidacy through ASSÉ-Support for the position of Academic

Affairs Secretary, having heard of a man who was considering running for the same position as me. I remember then having doubted my own candidacy. “He’s probably more qualified than I am. He’s more well-known by the local associations. He definitely does a better job than I do.” It’s only having discussed it with another woman that I realized that this was part of my: not only does my socialization as a woman discourage me from seeking positions of power and to avoid confrontation, I was also intimidated by the very idea of running.

There’s nothing trivial about this anecdote. I’m bringing it up because it’s a situation that I’ve repeatedly observed within the national team and that is still taking place: men who are elected tend to disappear during their term. These same men often take the place of a woman who would’ve otherwise submitted her candidacy. Although these men may not be the direct cause of the stress a woman can endure when she decides to run for a position, ensuring that women are well represented within our structures would help prevent situations where these positions are held by men who end up not completing their term. A woman who is empowered to take the place that’s rightfully hers acquires political experience and contributes to the national effort.

When these men are elected, a glaring lack of involvement on their behalf undermines ASSÉ’s structure. The workload is increased, mandates aren’t fulfilled or aren’t taken seriously. Because of this disinvestment, women are the ones to pick up where men gave up and do the ungrateful and unempowering work. In a training camp for example, men on the national team didn’t do all the dishes after a meal: it was up to the women to finish and make sure that the job was done, so that men can do “much more important” (and much more visible) work elsewhere.

This male laziness goes beyond the refusal to take on logistical responsibilities: refusing to resign, for example, creates a situation of ghost committees. This undermines the ability to obtain quorum during Coordination Council meetings, considering the disproportionate amount of men on the national team. Once again, women are left with the responsibility for logistics – organizing a Coordination Council meeting being one example – and not obtaining quorum in meetings due to ghost committees undermines the work the national team can do. These phantom men therefore endanger the execution of mandates within ASSÉ. They leave women to do the gritty job of logistics and even go as far as to refuse to answer calls for help.

Men expect a lot from their involvement. There was once a time when being elected at ASSÉ was held in high regard, but there still remains a certain prestige in being recognized by the most “radical” national student union. They want to be heard by women, be very recognized for their accomplishments and pass into the history of the student movement. Considering their dominant socialization, they take up a lot of space, speak loudly, and perpetuate their privileges within ASSÉ. For women to obtain the same level of recognition that men obtain naturally, they have to be some kind of super-activist, someone who accumulates responsibility on top of responsibility, who accomplishes them with distinction, not to mention who does all the work piled onto them by phantom men.

Being on the national team, be it on a Committee or the Executive Council, is a sacrifice. Since ASSÉ’s activists don’t receive a salary, they must often juggle work, school and activism.

The same sacrifice is asked of everyone: precariousness, the theme of our campaign this year, disproportionately affects women. Patriarchy is still a part of our society. This is why we've developed feminist practices in our decision-making bodies, but it's difficult to regulate how logistical responsibilities are shared. It isn't normal for women to have to work harder than men when we're the most precarious.

Men in the shadows

When I refer to men in the shadows, I'm referring to the men who invest the national structure, either directly or indirectly, but always for their own interests. They have enough social capital to be considered legitimate in their quest for recognition. Some of them have been around for a long time (too long), others are new (but still feel legitimate enough to attack women, because being macho's trendy).

In their spaces, these men in the shadows send women to the frontlines in order to appear to support gender parity, or to appear pro-feminist, but make the executive decisions in male non-mixed caucuses, either in a Facebook conversation or when meeting for a beer. They instrumentalize alternating speech turns in Congress, sending less experienced women to say lines that had already been meticulously prepared only to repeat them during their own speaking turn. They regularly have informal discussions that excluded women, create a circle of friends in order to shield themselves from criticism and coopt democratic instances to push their own agenda.

Men in the shadows criticize the invisible work done by women, but offer no help or alternatives – they criticize gratuitously, knowing full well that there'll be no consequences since they're men and protected from criticism. Women get involved when mobilization is in a slump and are the primary targets of such attacks, which aren't meant to help since men in the shadows are living in a constant ego trip.

I expected to be criticized as an ASSÉ exec. It's "normal" (in the sense that it's the norm, more than it should be), it's the political game: I'm a woman, and since I'm occupying space, I'm a target for misogyny. Since news spreads quickly in the student movement, I've recently learned of vicious rumours and slander about me on behalf of a man who sought only to do visible labour within helping with the invisible, and who criticized how I fulfilled my mandates. We often hear this kind of criticism from men, who prefer to invest social events, parties and social circles instead of democratic structures in order to fulfill themselves when mobilization is in a slump. In these discussions with other men, they take the opportunity to spread lies about women and appropriate their labour.

Criticizing the student movement as it currently is, gratuitously and without proposing any alternatives, invisibilizes the work of women currently involved in it. Men abandon student structures during slumps and criticize the women who remain, without offering any help. They come back when mobilization starts up again, thanks to the work done by the women who remained, and appropriate the recognition that comes along with doing visible work.

Conclusion

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to address a dynamic present among unelected men: the armchair quarterback.

Armchair quarterbacks are men who have been around the student movement for far too long, whether they've remained involved or not. Appeals to seniority are common for this specimen ("I was around for the 2005 strike so I know how things work and undermine the credibility of the women are involved now"). They're especially present on social networks, they make inside jokes involving a particular person or event, they have their clique of buddies who like their sexist and racist comments as well as their equally phallogentric memes. Armchair quarterbacks offer only criticism, only ever criticism.

Because they're not officially involved anywhere, these men are "untouchable": they aren't recognized by any democratic structure, but continue to pollute the student movement by undermining the work done by the women who are trying to keep ASSÉ alive in these difficult times.

ASSÉ is feminist. ASSÉ is beautiful, strong, and brave. It allowed for my own involvement as well as that of countless other women who learned to empower themselves through its inclusive, democratic, and combative structure. Be it by feminist Ultimatums, pamphlets, or its mandates or ability to organize, ASSÉ remains a vital tool for feminist action in the Quebec political landscape. True, ASSÉ isn't perfect. It could be more feminist, of course, but isn't that the desire of any feminist woman?

Favouring the involvement of women in our spaces not only allows for them to invest the student movement, but also to remain in democratic structures afterwards. For activist women to be better recognized in our spaces, calling out phantom men and men in the shadows for what they are – and their abandonment of their responsibilities and how it affects the women around them – would allow for women to become duly recognized activists. These women wouldn't have to work twice as hard in order to fulfill their regular invisible responsibilities as well as those that were abandoned by men.

In a truly feminist environment, women wouldn't be afraid to run for an elected position. Women wouldn't be criticized for the mere fact of being on an exec. Women would build solidarity amongst each other. Women wouldn't depend on men for political capital (being seen as "his girlfriend", for example).

Women's work should be valued. It's that simple.

For those lazy men who don't assume their laziness or who seek only to promote their own interests while undermining those of women, we know who you are. We know you and we see through the act.

We're no fools.

We're watching you.

Feminist, now and forever

Elisabeth Béfort-Doucet

ASSÉ Academic Affairs Secretary, 2016-2017

LETTER BY AECSAUM

*By the Executive Council of AECSAUM
(Submitted on March 28th, 2017)*

Hello all,

The Executive Council of the University of Montreal Anthropology Graduate Society (AECSAUM) has taken notice of the motion submitted by the Women's Committee that would revoke membership status for 15 student associations. Being one of the targeted associations, we felt the need to explain our situation in order to better inform the Congress.

Our student association represents all 95 master's and doctorate level students in the anthropology department of the University of Montreal. The reality of graduate studies implies that many of our members are only rarely present on campus and many do their field work far from the University. You'll have understood that our association is very small and must therefore rely on a small number of people in order to function.

There were very few new enrolments in both the master's and doctorate programs in our department this year, which greatly impacted our ability to renew our pool of active members. Additionally, our membership was reduced by 55 people last year due to a departmental decision that withdrew student status to people whose master's or doctorate projects were stagnating. This of course greatly affected our finances.

Together, these factors meant that our Executive Council (incomplete and lacking an External) was only formed in mid-December. Our small association has many issues to follow: union activities for teaching assistants, departmental assemblies, organizing colloquiums and conferences, etc. Lacking an External, we were unfortunately unable to send any delegations to ASSÉ Congresses this year.

We ask Congress to not revoke our membership status since we believe that our absence in ASSÉ's instances is only temporary. Since its affiliation to ASSÉ, our association attended a great majority of Congresses. For example, last year, we actively participated in every Congress, sometimes sending two delegates (which is quite the exploit considering our limited means). We were also one of the most active student unions when it came to local issues at University of Montreal. Last year was very demanding for our association and several of our active members are quite tired and no longer have the will they once had. The current lethargic climate in the student movement may explain this in part.

In short, we understand the Women's Committee's preoccupations and consider such an examination of ASSÉ's membership to be relevant. Instances being paralyzed due to a lack of quorum isn't interesting for anybody. We offer our apologies for our absence this year and reiterate our intention to continue working alongside the other student associations within ASSÉ.

Hoping that this short text may help inform Congress.

The Executive Council of AECSAUM

ON ASSÉ'S RELEVANCE – APPROPRIATION OF MANDATES AND EMPOWERMENT OF NEW ACTIVISTS

By the ASSÉ Women's Committee

(Originally submitted on November 6th, 2016 for the December 2016 Orientation Congress, Re-submitted on March 31st, 2017)

In order for ASSÉ to remain relevant as an organization, it must continue to evolve and be dynamic. However, ASSÉ, through its structure and functioning, cannot work if a blank cheque is handed over to some bureaucracy. Nor is it possible to simply hire people to do all the tasks that are necessary for the ongoing functioning of the organization, as the student federations do (not only due to a lack of financial resources but also in order to allow activists to empower themselves). This is why ASSÉ created structures for involvement at the national level in the form of committees who, alongside the Executive Council, form the National Team. This team is composed of people who volunteer their time in order to ensure the proper functioning of the organization, up to a point. Since ASSÉ is first and foremost an organization that functions because of its members, it seems problematic that associations hand the responsibility of its wellbeing to at most a few dozen people.

First, because it appears paradoxical that only a handful of people manage an association that claims to exist by and for its members. Second, this situation gives a disproportionate amount of power to this handful of people despite the fact that ASSÉ aims to be as horizontal as possible. This concentration of power among only a few people creates a particularly harmful asymmetry within an organization that's meant to function on the principle of power symmetry (and therefore in a horizontal manner). It's impossible for ASSÉ to function solely through the volunteer work of a few people, this is why the horizontality principle was implemented: so that local activists may also contribute to ASSÉ's project. Although the reasons behind the horizontality of power at ASSÉ may at first glance appear merely practical, they're also ideological: how do we remain coherent with ourselves if we're reproducing a structure similar to the one we're criticizing (capitalism and its government sponsors)?

In this text, we'll cover several issues that we consider to be important to ASSÉ's vitality as a student union.

Appropriation of Congress mandates by local associations

Over time, we've witnessed a tendency within ASSÉ that appears problematic in certain regards. First, there is the difficulty or even absence of student associations appropriating mandates that were adopted by Congress. The Association for Solidarity among Student Unions is based on participatory democracy, which requires as the name suggests, the participation of its members in order to properly function. But this participation must not end with decision-making, since participatory democracy implies members' participation at all levels of the democratic process: elaborating reflections (which the current text is a demonstration of), making decisions in Congress, and also in the application of decisions.

This is why when a decision is made in Congress, each association voting in favour of it must do so in full awareness of its ability. It is also a commitment on behalf of the associations who vote in favour of a motion: they pledge to take part in the application of the decisions that were made.

Let's take an example from the most recent Congress, held on October 8th and 9th:

Be it resolved that ASSÉ coordinate four weeks of feminist mobilization on all of its affiliated campuses over November 7th through 11th, January 30th to February 3rd, February 27th to March 3rd, and March 27th to 31st.

Be it further resolved that the following themes be the following:

- Everyday sexism, division of labour, and being an ally;
- Rape culture in academic environments, namely in social events but also in daily life;
- The need for appropriate policies pertaining to denunciations and the accompaniment of survivors in educational institutions;
- Intersectionality of systems of oppression.

Be it further resolved that at mobilization material pertaining to these different topics be produced for each of the aforementioned weeks by the National Team and local associations, namely in the form of pamphlets, texts, zines, or stickers.

Since ASSÉ is, essentially, what its member associations want it to be, our understanding of this mandate is that ASSÉ's members will organize four weeks of feminist action and mobilization. Therefore, the idea isn't so much that the National Team organize the feminist weeks of action and mobilization from A to Z, but rather lend support or help facilitate communication between member associations that do wish to the organizing.

Furthermore, the mandate doesn't specify what kind of action should be undertaken. Nothing's preventing an association that doesn't have the necessary mobilization to organize a demo for example, from organizing a feminist open mic, banner drop, of handing out flyers, or putting up posters all over campus, or even mixing and combining some or all of these ideas. Of course, this list isn't exhaustive and the only limits to what actions are possible are those of your creativity. Escalating pressure tactics also means being aware of the means at your disposal and acting upon them. And if, for example, an association is able to generate a certain escalation over those weeks, by doing a banner drop first, then an open-mic in the second week, and a speaker series over the third week, and has an action during the fourth week, it demonstrates that escalation can also be done through visibility actions. Again, the only limits are the extent of your imagination.

We get the impression that the mandate that was adopted during the Coordination Council meeting on November 1st moves away from the appropriation of Congress mandates by local associations:

Be it resolved that the Women's Committee as well as Mireille organize a non-mixed meeting of the National Team and its collaborators on November 23rd in order to coordinate the feminist weeks of action to come.

We believe that this goes against the idea of appropriating Congress mandates, as well as associations' local sovereignty. If the National Team begins organizing and coordinating local associations' actions, not only do we fear this would harm local creativity, but also runs the risk of disastrous effects in the form of disempowering newer activists at the local level who would, in the long run, learn to depend on the National Team for its campaigns and actions. This isn't the combativeness our organization claims to embody. Combativeness is multi-faceted and stems from the shared desire to coordinate between local associations in such a way that each association can develop their ingenuity and their creativity in their means of action.

Again, we're concerned that this may create a form of hierarchy between those who are involved in the National Team and those who are involved in their local association. This reminds us that one of the frustrations expressed last year concerned the fact that ASSÉ doesn't sufficiently consider local struggles. Yet who is better placed to talk about local issues than local activists? The answer to this question is simple: nobody! And this is precisely why local activists must appropriate the mandates and campaigns adopted by Congress: since local issues are different from one campus or association to another, it's possible to unite under a general campaign in which every campus or association can put its specificities forward and mobilize its members according to its own realities.

How new activists must carry the torch and empower themselves with regards to has-beens

New activists bring fresh ideas to their student association. Short of fundamentally changing the student association's structural and organizational foundations, new activists are ASSÉ's future, in our opinion. It's time for their voices to be heard with regards to the directions they think ASSÉ should follow. It's time for the ghost of 2012 to be left behind and for us to look towards the struggles to come. May the glorification of passed struggles come to an end so that we may commence today's mobilization based on what we've won and learned in the past.

On an individual basis, it's time for new activists who weren't around in 2012 to stop solely relying on the influence of the most experienced activists (whom we also call has-beens) and develop a culture of political autonomy. Although their teachings and shared experiences may be enriching, today and tomorrow's activists must be capable of making decisions without relying on those whose informal authority cannot be questioned. However, they must also be able to make decisions in the most informed and humble manner possible. We have to find common ground between activists' arrogance and ideological and intellectual dependency.

LETTER BY AGEEPP

(Submitted on April 4th, 2017)

Hello everyone,

AGEEPP has learned that a motion aiming to expel our association will be submitted at the next ASSÉ Congress. The Executive, assisted and supported by other members, has written the following response:

The following motion has been announced following the informal ASSÉ Women's Congress held on February 18th 2017:

“Whereas the following associations haven't participated or haven't registered in any of the three latest ASSÉ decision-making instances,

Whereas being a member of ASSÉ involves at least attending ASSÉ's decision-making instances,

Whereas the two latest Congresses couldn't take place due to lack of dual quorum, which is determined first by the number of Cégep associations, and second by the total number of ASSÉ members,

Be it resolved that the following associations be expelled from ASSÉ:

AECA (Alma Cégep)

AGEEM (Mont-Laurier Cégep)

LAS (Liberal Arts Society – Concordia)

AECSAUM (Anthropology graduates – UdeM)

AELCUM (Comparative Literature – UdeM)

AÉHUM (History – UdeM)

AECSSP (Political Science graduates – UQAM)

AESS-UQAM (Sciences – UQAM)

ACEP (Philosophy graduates – ULaval)

AGEEPP-UL (Philosophy – ULaval)

AGÉÉTUL (Theatre – ULaval)

AHCS-GSA (Art History and Communications graduates – McGill)”

The Executive of AGEEPP wishes to express its concern and disappointment with this motion aiming to exclude associations and wishes to respond for the following reasons:

First, associations like ours, which are smaller and further away from Montreal, may have difficulty handling the increasingly condemned montrealcentrism present within ASSÉ: decision-making instances, be they official or unofficial, almost systematically take place in Montreal or in its suburbs. Traveling can be difficult and our limited participation may be due to this uncontrollable factor. We regret to notice that among the associations threatened with expulsion, nearly half are from Quebec City or regions outside of Montreal and are subject to the same difficulties with traveling and mobilizing.

Furthermore, we're doubly penalized when it comes to the Women's Congress, since there are few women in our Executive and in our student body at large. The motion in question appears to come from the ASSÉ Women's Committee, but we fail to understand how by excluding women from the debate can help the conditions of female students in Quebec, when the latter must already compose with difficulties stemming from the fact that they're a minority within their own union.

Furthermore, we've noticed a severe lack of communication between ASSÉ and AGEEPP. It's happened, as in the case of the Women's Congress, that we receive no official convening but instead are notified by Facebook five days in advance or by e-mail 24 hours before the event. Outside of decision-making instances, there is very little follow-up. On the rare occasions that ASSÉ representatives visit us, we're informed at the very last minute, and they often neglect to bring us mobilization material directly, and we practically never get any follow-up on the issues that we bring up. When one such issue was brought to ASSÉ in the October 2016 Congress by our External Affairs Coordinator, it was ignored and ridiculed by the other attendees, despite the fact that it directly concerned some of ASSÉ's founding principles such as private sector interference in public education and access to free, quality, public, accessible, and non-discriminatory education.

In addition, although we recognize that this motion doesn't come directly from ASSÉ, we wish to know why no warning was issued to AGEEPP. Over the past several years, AGEEPP has actively participated in defending ASSÉ's principles, in participating at the FRAQ-ASSÉ, in paying our dues, and in participating in ASSÉ's struggles to the best of our ability, despite the fact that student mobilization at the national level has dwindled over the past few semesters.

We don't doubt that the other associations targeted for expulsion can demonstrate the same kind of energy in defending the student movement, and excluding associations when participation and communication are hindered strikes us as neither justified, nor in ASSÉ's best interest. Being a member of ASSÉ can mean more than just attending decision-making instances, for example by defending its principles at the local level. It may be important to address these issues and recognize this different form of participation rather than jump to expulsions.

For we believe that if a solution exists, it's to be found in solidarity between associations, in ASSÉ's understanding of its local members' realities, in better communication between them and in encouraging them in facing their issues, which can take many forms while we collectively defend a common notion of equality.

In solidarity,

AGEEPP

STRANGERS TO STUDENT LABOUR

*By David Jules
CUTE-Marie-Victorin
(Submitted on April 5th, 2017)*

The first half of the Quebec Liberal Party's term has been particularly marked by austerity measures aiming to reduce the State's expenses in the name of a balanced budget, following the precedent set by previous governments. In addition to the negative consequences on labour conditions in the public sector and on access to social services, these measures have made the living conditions of the student population more difficult. It's in this political and economic context that the Cégep de Marie-Victorin Student Union (SECMV) adopted, in a General Assembly in early 2016, a mandate for a campaign on student labour.

This campaign represents a breaking point: it aims to set the record straight within the student movement. It's an attempt at remodeling the conception of the student on which student unionism is founded by updating the famous first article of the Grenoble Charter of 1946, which states that students are "young intellectual workers"⁶. The SECMV's campaign, on the other hand, aims to get rid of the "youth" label attributed to students because, on one hand, this label is incompatible with permanent education and, on the other hand, because it's infantilizing. This campaign also renews the notion that education is a form of labour rather than a service. This new conception has considerable ramifications. It's actually at the heart of the campaign on student labour: demanding the recognition of student labour through wages. This aims to ensure that all students, regardless of their age, avoid improper labour conditions (working part-time, undeclared work, McJobs, etc.) and, above all else, that they may study in decent conditions. However, the SECMV's campaign goes a step further: it demands equal recognition for people of colour, people with disabilities as well as LGBTQIIAA+ people.

Despite its efforts towards inclusion, SECMV's campaign has left out a certain group of students once more: international students. They're not mentioned anywhere in this campaign despite the fact that the demand for student wages is at the heart of their lived experiences. This isn't new: the student movement has difficulty reaching this population, since few of these students gravitate around student associations, which in turn means that demands rarely reflect their specific issues. We can easily notice that information related to demands and struggles rarely target this group. A brief stay in Quebec, the amount of time dedicated to their studies and a precarious status due to a visa only make this problem worse. We can also note that student unionism is sometimes not even present in certain parts of the world, which can reduce international students' appreciation of the political power of the student movement.

Substantial efforts must be made in mobilizing international students, even more so due to the fact that living conditions will tend to deteriorate for a large portion of them. In fact, at the University level, nearly 85% of international students worry about their ability to pay for expenses related to education such as tuition and textbooks; 83% are preoccupied by rent and

⁶The Grenoble Charter: <http://strasbourg.unef.fr/quest-ce-que-lunef/la-charte-de-grenoble/>

79% express difficulty in paying for basic expenses such as food, clothing and transportation⁷. Evidently, all these costs tend to increase⁸. If the cost of living is high for Quebecois students, it's even more the case for international students who have to compose with much higher tuition fees and mandatory private insurance, without having access to financial aid.

Even French students, who since 1978 have benefitted from a special agreement between the French and Quebecois governments, have seen their conditions become suddenly more precarious. While they once were allowed to pay the same tuition fees as Quebecois students (and students from here enjoyed the same benefits in France), the breaking of this bilateral agreement in March of 2015 has had the effect of tripling their tuition fees. Unsurprisingly, this in turn considerably reduced the number of students originating from France⁹. Studying in Quebec had served as a lifeline for a large portion of the French population due to high unemployment rates in their home country. And although France is meant to have free tuition, post-secondary education remains elitist and two-tiered, since the best schools remain inaccessible for many students due to their high admittance fees.

In order to survive, international students go into debt with their family or friends, or try their "luck" in the labour market, which is difficultly accessible. Sometimes they find a job on campus, with a limited number of allowed working hours; sometimes, they file a request for an off-campus working permit, which is generally difficult to obtain. Evidently, many turn towards undeclared labour in order to make ends meet, which is paid below minimum wage and offers no legal protection.

It isn't difficult to see the link between the particular situation of these students and the demand for student wages. Considering international students as beneficiaries justifies submitting them to fees and differentiated conditions, which is a major cause of the poverty a great majority of them are in. The argument by which "Quebec workers don't have the means to pay for educating students from around the world without a guarantee that they will socially and economically contribute to Quebec once their studies are completed" makes no sense once we recognize the productive labour done here during their studies. This argument represents a major roadblock for the demand for free education for all, even within ASSÉ.

By considering studies as labour, we're completely shifting paradigms. How can one justify that international workers be paid less than those with Canadian citizenship and who reside in Quebec for the same job? Of course, this is a labour struggle similar to equal pay between men and women (for equal work, equal pay), which is considered legitimate by most people today. The recognition of studies as labour would therefore allow for international students to escape this extreme poverty.

⁷Source: Bureau canadien de l'éducation internationale, 2014. <http://cbie.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/CBIEflagship-French-full-WEB-RES-final.pdf>

⁸We often hear that tuition fees in Quebec are among the lowest in North America. On the other hand, they're among the highest in the OECD, since many of these countries have adopted free education.

⁹Several regional Cégeps and Universities whose income depends on having a certain number of French students have been affected by the drop in admissions following the breaking of the France-Quebec agreement.

A student visa is seen as a favour that we ask of the government, or a service that we receive, whereas a work visa is seen as something that we earn through our skills. Why should being an international student necessarily mean poor living conditions? If studies are seen as actual labour, both a student and work visa should allow for the same freedom. In the end, there shouldn't be a distinction, we'd simply have a temporary visa; the duration of one's stay would be the only distinction so long as borders still exist.

The will to remedy for the neglect of international students in the SECMV's initial campaign shows that the struggle for student wages is still in its early stages and that it must continue to be built. Multiplying points of view and experiences is therefore essential in order to build a struggle that can subvert the relation between studies and labour. It'll be crucial, both for the CUTE-Marie-Victorin and other student associations and autonomous groups aiming to contribute to the campaign on student wages to truly consider the realities of international students this time around. The universal potential of this campaign goes far beyond that of usual student struggles.

RESIGNATION LETTERS

CANDIDACY LETTERS

FRANÇOIS DESROCHES' CANDIDACY LETTER FOR THE POSITION OF FINANCE SECRETARY

(Submitted on April 14th, 2017)

Hello comrades,

I hereby submit my candidacy for the position of Finance Secretary for 2017-2018.

Mandatory activist resume

I first got involved back in January 2013 with the Higher Education Summit and ASSÉ's mobilization for free education. At the time, I was elected to the position of Archivist in my student union, AGECD, in Drummondville. The following year, I became Mobilization Coordinator. In 2014-2015, I joined the national team as the sole member of the Information Committee. The following year, in 2015-2016, I was elected to the position of Information Secretary on the Executive Council. This year, in 2016-2017, I'm completing my second term as a member of the Information Committee.

Why finance?

In running for Finance Secretary, I intend to work on financial matters, but also the logistical and administrative affairs that an executive must face. Having spent the past 3 years rigorously accomplishing my mandates, I believe I can adequately fulfill my financial responsibilities. Oh, and I'm almost done my integral calculus class, and I've dived back into mathematical calculation programs recently, so financial affairs should be pretty swell.

My game plan

Now that the "boring" part of my letter is done, I'd like to present my game plan, in the interest of transparency as defended by the horizontal and democratic organization that is ASSÉ.

The problems

Let's face it, ASSÉ's facing some pretty important problems right now. I believe that one of the main problems is that people see ASSÉ as this big, distant, and unreachable machine. Such a vision discourages involvement and solidarity between associations. ASSÉ is its members, the associations that form it, and the activists involved in it. ASSÉ is me writing this letter and you reading it.

The solutions

According to my own experience as an activist, restarting a student union means putting in a lot of work during the first 2-3 weeks of the fall semester. It's by doing a lot of mobilization in that period that we can meet new activists, make the student association known, and to ensure quorum for the coming GA's. I'd wager that the same goes for a national student union. At the start of the year, we should help local unions with the start of the semesters and encourage inter-union support. What I mean is that activists from other student associations, not necessarily from the national level, can help other associations when they have the time (this is also what we call Solidarity among Student Unions).

If we can start the year on the right foot, more associations will be running smoothly, and more activists will be involved. I'd also wish to renew a practice that took place at ASSÉ in 2003, the *Training Caravan*. In short, it involves visiting every willing association in order to give on-site basic training (ABC's of mobilization, ABC's of feminism, ABC's of a student association).

In short, we can encourage associations to help each other, increase the amount of local activists, and offer the trainings so that associations can ensure their autonomy.

In conclusion

I believe we can still restore the strength and combativeness ASSÉ once had. It'll mean everyone working together and putting their hearts into it. ASSÉ isn't only the francophone schools in Montreal. It's the regions outside Montreal as well as Anglophone associations. And only by working together can we achieve victory.

Yours in solidarity,

François Desroches

OLIVIER GAUDREAU LACASSE'S CANDIDACY LETTER FOR THE POSITION OF COORDINATION SECRETARY

(Submitted on April 14th, 2017)

Hey ASSÉ members, I'd like to announce my candidacy for the position of ASSÉ Coordination Secretary for the coming year. I'm from downtown Mont-Laurier where I was involved at AGEEM, which is a regional Cégep association. Last year was my baptism by fire in terms of involvement at the national level when I was in the mobilization committee. I had fun for a while, I loved visiting you every now and then and lending a hand. But I won't be able to travel as much next year, so that's why I'm submitting my candidacy for the position of Coordination Secretary. I believe that's where I can be most useful for ASSÉ next year. I also like doing logistical work and ensuring that everyone has a good time in our different instances, and I believe I can do the job, although I may make some purely human mistakes.

I'm not sure where I'll be next year, but for the time being I'm happily a member of AFESH-UQAM.

PS: I'm not a very good writer and I'm sorry. I'm not here to sell myself, but rather to introduce myself as realistically as I can. Don't hesitate to contact me before the next Congress should you have any questions, comments or insults. My e-mail is gaudreaulacasseo@gmail.com

Wishing you all a good Congress!

With a hell of a lot of solidarity,

Olivier Gaudreau Lacasse

FRIDOLINE BÉDARD'S CANDIDACY LETTER FOR THE POSITION OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY

(Submitted on April 14th, 2017)

Comrades,

I've decided to run for Internal at ASSÉ. The decision to extend my activism to the national level comes after two years of involvement at AGECD within the Executive Council and mobilization committee.

My interest in student activism began through my older sisters who were notably involved in the spring of 2012 in their local student associations. I followed what you can call the ABC's of a student association before even setting foot in one. It's by following my sisters' encouragements and also by lack of experience that, during my first week at Cégep, I got involved with my student association in order to participate in the upcoming social strike in fall of 2015.

I was warmly received by AGECD's activists in Drummondville and during my first General Assembly, I was elected to the position of External Coordinator. Although the fall movement fell short of our expectations, that semester taught me that activism means more than preparing for a strike.

News has been spreading about a rather difficult situation in Drummondville regarding myself and several of my comrades. Although the situation at AGECD may seem discouraging or even unbearable, the flame of my activism hasn't died out. In fact, this situation allowed me to grow and realize that I have the ability and the means at my disposal to continue my involvement. And I wish to invest my renewed enthusiasm in our national union. Although it may have been interpreted as such, Drummondville Cégep still holds a place in my heart. It's the cradle of my activism and though I believe that my place is now at the national level, I believe that solidarity must first be built among every association affiliated to ASSÉ so that I may one day participate in a social strike!

In solidarity,

Fridoline Bédard

REPORTS

AGEBDEB'S REPORT

(Submitted April 5th, 2017)

- Feminism

We organized three weeks of feminist action on the topic of consent. We put up posters around campus, organized a conference and a round table on the topic of sexual violence and even installed a virtual reality booth “Do you NO your limit?” which allows for students to take the place of a victim. This last activity was of great interest to its many participants.

- Student life

We organized a free pet therapy event for students before and during exam week so that they can have a moment of reprieve and reduce their stress levels. Fortunately, participation was very high and most students enjoyed the event!

- LGBTQIA+

AGEBdeB's LGBTQIA+ committee is moving forward with a campaign for gender-neutral washrooms on campus. The committee began by raising awareness among the student population about the issue (as well as trans* issues) and the project has been receiving lots of support. Let's hope it comes to fruition!

- Political affairs

In April, we'll be receiving researcher and public speaker Simon Tremblay-Pepin who will be giving a talk on the state of media in the Trump era as well as on the topic of post-facts.

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 each delegation present a report on the state of their local mobilization.

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

3.2. *Whereas a state of progressive disinvestment in ASSÉ has been observed;*

Whereas several of ASSÉ's member associations are demobilized;

Whereas the two latest Congresses did not reach quorum;

Whereas few candidacies to the national team have been submitted;

Whereas the Orientation Congress did not meet its objectives, and that the same explanations are often repeated but no changes are observed;

Whereas ASSÉ has difficulty representing the discourse and initiative that formed not only the spear-point, but also the driving force of the student movement;

Whereas the underlying problem has yet to be properly discussed in a formal setting;

Whereas a strong and mobilized national organization is of utmost importance;

Be it resolved that we hold a 120 minute plenary on the topic of the ASSÉ's current state of crisis.

Be it further resolved that we focus on how to reverse the tendency towards disinvestment, or on the actions to undertake if the latter is understood to be impossible.

*Submitted by AFESH-UQAM
(Submitted April 24, 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. Be it resolved that ASSÉ denounce the instrumentalization of “academic freedom” and “freedom of speech” when used to justify hateful or derogatory discourse and actions, particularly when the latter are overtly racist, colonialist, xenophobic, transphobic, homophobic, sexist, misogynistic, antifeminist, classist or ableist.

Be it further resolved that ASSÉ denounce events of that nature. Be it further resolved that ASSÉ support any action aiming to denounce or disrupt such events, whenever relevant and to the best of its ability.

Be it further resolved that ASSÉ support and participate in the creation of safer-spaces/braver-spaces within post-secondary educational institutions.

Submitted by AFESH-UQAM

(Submitted March 12th, 2017)

6.2.6. Be it resolved that the following article be added to the ASSÉ bylaws after article 8: Disaffiliation

“Article 9: Loss of membership status

Any association affiliated to ASSÉ that does not attend three decision-making instances automatically loses its status as a member of ASSÉ.”

Submitted by the Women’s Committee

(Submitted March 14th, 2017)

6.2.7. Whereas the following associations haven’t participated or haven’t registered in any of the three most recent ASSÉ decision-making instances,

Whereas being a member of ASSÉ involves at least attending ASSÉ’s decision-making instances,

Whereas the two most recent Congresses could not take place due to lack of dual quorum, which is determined first by the number of Cégep associations, and second by the total number of ASSÉ members,

Be it resolved that the following associations be expelled from ASSÉ:

- AECA (Alma Cégep)
- AGEEM (Mont-Laurier Cégep)
- LAS (Liberal Arts Society – Concordia)
- AECSAUM (Anthropology graduates – UdeM)
- AELCUM (Comparative Literature – UdeM)
- AÉHUM (History – UdeM)
- AECSSP (Political Science graduates – UQAM)
- AESS-UQAM (Sciences – UQAM)
- ACEP (Philosophy graduates – ULaval)
- AGEEPP-UL (Philosophy – ULaval)
- AGÉÉTUL (Theatre – ULaval)
- AHCS-GSA (Art History and Communications graduates – McGill)
Submitted by the Women’s Committee
(Submitted March 21st, 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)

8.2. *Whereas this is an issue that is experienced on a daily basis,*

Whereas rape culture is omnipresent,

Whereas the support offered to survivors is too often insufficient,

Be it resolved that ASSÉ launch a national campaign against sexual assault and rape culture in Quebec educational institutions for the duration of the 2017-2018 school year.

Be it further resolved that ASSÉ call for a restructuring of policies against sexual harassment, of the processes surrounding denunciations of sexual assault, as well as the structures meant to support survivors within educational institutions.

Be it further resolved that ASSÉ, in that sense, demand a massive reinvestment in university and Cégep funding on behalf of the provincial government, since in the current context of budget cuts, student services including services to survivors, are the first to be affected.

Submitted by the Women's Committee

(Submitted March 11, 2017)

8.3. Be it resolved that ASSÉ invite its members to consider the upcoming annual campaign along the following lines:

- Rise of the extreme right in Quebec and around the world;
- Antiracism, anticolonialism, anti-imperialism;
- Tuition fee increases for international students

Be it further resolved that an intersectional feminist perspective be brought forward within these discussions;

Be it further resolved that ASSÉ and its members immediately begin building ties with groups from the populations directly concerned and affected by these issues.

Submitted by AFESH-UQAM

(Submitted March 12, 2017)

8.4. Be it resolved that ASSÉ Annual Campaign's (2017-2018) focus on an intersectional feminist mobilization and specifically against sexual violence on campuses.

Submitted by FASA

(Submitted April 24, 2017)

9. DEMANDS

9.1. Be it resolved that ASSÉ be in favour of:

- The hiring of social workers specialized in sexual violence on every campus;
- The revision and implementation of policies surrounding sexual violence on every campus.

Submitted by AFESH-UQAM

(Submitted March 12, 2017)

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.