



**PREPARATION BOOKLET FOR THE APRIL 23rd AND 24th
2016 ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR
SOLIDARITY AMONG STUDENT UNIONS**

April 6th Version

Place

Conseil régional FTQ Québec et Chaudières-Appalaches
5000 des Gradins Boul., Quebec City

Time

Call to order on Saturday April 23rd at 9:00 AM

Participation costs

15\$ (members) / 20\$ (non-members)

Transportation

To be determined

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

- Bylaws

- Codes and procedures

- Minutes of the previous Congress (February 20th-21st 2016)

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TABLE OF CONTENT

TABLE OF CONTENT.....	3
AGENDA PROPOSAL.....	5
REFLECTION TEXTS.....	6
drummondville's Had Enough.....	6
RESIGNATION LETTERS.....	10
Marie-Ève Tremblay-Cléroux's letter of resignation from the ASSÉ Training Committee..	10
Jean-Philippe Guay-Claude's letter of resignation from the ASSÉ Research and Academic Affairs Committee (RAAC).....	11
Benjamin Gingras' letter of resignation from the ASSÉ Newspaper committee.....	12
Félicia St-Arnault's letter of resignation from the ASSÉ Women's committee.....	13
Émile Septembre's letter of resignation from the ASSÉ Mobilization committee.....	13
CANDIDACY LETTERS.....	14
Mathieu Noël Brouillette's candidacy letter for the position of Internal Affairs Secretary..	14
Élisabeth Béfort-Doucet'S Candidacy Letter for the Position of academic affairs Secretary ..	15
Claudia Cachay-Osorio's Candidacy Letter for the Position of academic affairs Secretary.	17
Henrick Bendwell's candidacy letter for the position of Internal Affairs Secretary.....	19
Rosalie Rose's candidacy letter for the position of External Relations Secretary.....	21
Charles Besner's Candidacy on the Legal Committee.....	22
SUMMARY.....	23
Monthly Summary of the Executive Council, February 2016.....	23
SUMMARY OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS' FEMINIST DEMANDS, PRACTICES AND PRINCIPLES.....	24
AGECFXG's Summary.....	24
AFESH-UQAM's Summary.....	26
ACSSUM's Summary.....	35
AECS' Summary.....	39
AESPEP's Summary.....	41
MOTIONS.....	44
0. Call To Order.....	44
1. Procedures.....	44
1.1. Praesidium.....	44
1.2. Motion to adopt the agenda.....	44
1.3. Motion to adopt the minutes.....	44
2. Welcoming New members.....	44
3. Deliberation on notice of motion.....	44
4. Summary.....	45
5. Finances.....	45

6. Women.....	46
7. Elections.....	46
8. Action Plan.....	46
9. Demands.....	46
10. Submission of notice of motion.....	46
11. Varia.....	46
12. Adjournment.....	46
APPENDICES.....	47
APPENDIX 1 : Motion to Modify Appendix I of the ASSÉ Bylaws.....	47
Appendix 2 : Current Version of Appendix I of the ASSÉ Bylaws.....	50

AGENDA PROPOSAL

0. Call to order
1. Procedures
 - 1.1 Praesidium
 - 1.2. Motion to adopt the agenda
 - 1.2 Motion to adopt the minutes
2. Welcoming new members
3. Deliberation on notice of motion
4. Summary
5. Finances
6. Women
7. Elections
8. Action Plan
9. Demands
10. Submission of notice of motion
11. Varia
12. Adjournment

REFLECTION TEXTS

DRUMMONDVILLE'S HAD ENOUGH

(Submitted March 11th, 2016)

We became activists in Drummondville. Some of us are still there, some are now in Montreal. Our activism began “in a region” and has continued or will certainly continue in an “urban center” since there isn’t a University where we live or used to live. We don’t care how you call these realities. “Urban center”, “large city”, “metropolitan city”, versus “region” or “association outside Montreal”, it doesn’t really matter to us. What does matter is that the way the debates surrounding montrealcentrism are taking place is very frustrating. We either vigorously deny it, push it aside, or manipulate it for our own political agenda. The reality is that montrealcentrism exists, and that it’s more insidious than you think and that it’s up to activists in the regions or from the regions to bring forth change and solutions. No need to speculate between people from Montreal. This text won’t present any solutions. This text isn’t here to make you feel good or to be appealing. This is the expression of an overload, and it aims to show you our reality. Maybe if you listened for once, you could understand.

Being an activist in a region means having an Executive isn’t always full, with lots of new people, with a mobilization committee that brings together exactly the same people (if they bother showing up), and the same goes for the rest of the committees. It means having to constantly struggle to have a full Executive and active committees while also having to think about who’s going to pick up the baton. Because when you do finally get someone to get involved, they’re often in their final year.

Being an activist in a region means to be perpetually informing the student population that their student association exists. It’s a permanent battle to show what your union is for. Before thinking about an action plan to join in a national campaign or to defend your members’ rights, you have to mobilize for your election GA, otherwise you won’t have an Executive Council and you can’t go forward. It means being confronted with students’ questions, contempt, disinterest and even disgust when you’re mobilizing. But we draw our motivation from the rare but relevant discussions with students we don’t know but who seem interested. It also means having to inform a student population of 2500 people when you’re a group of 5-10 people on a good day.

Being an activist in Montreal means Executives that are often full, where we can have discussions on how to best open it to more members. Open Executive? Executive by committees? Adjunct or deputy positions? All damn good ideas. We have to open democratic spaces, but when you have to bend over backwards just to have a full Executive, this debate isn’t quite as stimulating. It sounds much more theoretical than anything. It also means having diverse and active committees. Hey, at Maisonneuve, there are over 12 active organisms! That’s more active members than we had or currently have at Drummondville.

Being an activist in a region means that you need a car to meet the closest neighbouring student union because it's a 45 minute drive away. It means having to pay for gas to attend meetings. It means not really having any associations with whom we can share our realities because we're not in the same administrative region as the MASSE, our current regional council. The associations from the regional council we should be in are even further and have realities that our different from ours. It means knowing that, in the end, we're pretty isolated.

Being an activist in Montreal means being able to meet a phenomenal amount of other associations without even have to change public transport services. It means thinking that Marie-Victorin is too far to go and lend a hand because the metro doesn't reach it. It not only means having associations with similar realities nearby, but also the capacity of seeing them on a regular basis.

Being an activist in Montreal means being able to call a General Assembly one week after losing quorum because you know that activists from neighbouring associations can easily come over to lend a hand. That's just swell.

Being an activist in a region means knowing that ASSÉ, in the end, is far from you. Going to the office, even when you're on the national team, isn't easy. It means knowing that you're lucky if an instance takes place in your town, and that every other time it'll be in Montreal where you'll have to deal with sleeping on cold floors and driving back from Congress exhausted. I was only going back to Drummondville, never mind St-Félicien. We must never forget how impressive it is that they're there every time, and the level of dedication that requires. It means not being aware of all the national issues because you don't have the time to look into all the local, regional and national struggles while keeping your own association alive. When you arrive in Congress, you don't always understand everything very well, but you make do with what you have. Your delegation is smaller than other associations'. Sometimes you're even alone while others are stacked together in a group of ten with the observers they brought with them (that's more than our mobilization committee...). It's of course ideal that more people participate in the instance, but let's admit it, it's pretty intimidating. And it means that the bigger associations monopolize the speech turns. It simply isn't possible to take as many speech turns when you're alone in your delegation. And often when you're more than one, you're with newer activists who are still too shy to speak in Congress, shyness that's only reinforced by the way you ignore them or by the faces you make. We see you. So the same message is often repeated and your mandates aren't heard. Long live democracy. It means having to endure the Congress without taking breaks that are voted by the other associations, because the so-called debate is more important than your mental health, and having to be there the next morning, regardless of the time at which the Congress adjourned the previous day because you don't have a team to replace you. Finally, it means having to leave the place you call home so you can continue studying and organizing.

Being an activist in a region means arriving in Congress less prepared than the Montreal associations because we get less information and couldn't meet with the other unions from our region because of the distance, and often the realities of the nearby associations are very different from ours. It also means being looked down upon, especially when we're still in Cégep, by

associations having more experienced delegates or by associations having “a better reputation” in the national association or in the student movement. It also means not being listened to by other associations in Congress for some obscure reason. It means contempt, or being erased by these delegations. It means being spoken to in a paternalistic tone to make sure that we understand the realities of Montreal. No, we don’t know the Montreal realities, but not because they’re too complicated for small regional associations, but because no one tells us anything about what’s going on. And then we look soft because we stay in our corner and not get involved in these projects. We’re excluded and forgotten when things go well and when things go bad, we’re accused of not joining in.

Being an activist in a region means not having as many leftist groups around you, if there are any at all. Conflicts between extreme Left groups seem ridiculous to you. Maybe you don’t agree on self-management with the Maoist in your Cégep, but it’s only an individual debate. There aren’t as many protests, and when there is one, you can be sure you took an active part in it. It means not having any kind of counter-discourse in the media other than what comes out of the mouths of your comrades. It means accepting that Québec Solidaire is the farthest Left organization in your region. It means having to deal with the prejudices of people who are afraid of your association’s office because you’re not “normal” enough for these people.

Being an activist in Montreal means that there’s an effervescence of leftist and even radical leftist groups. When you finish unpacking your last box, when your Internet’s finally plugged in and you try to see which radical Left group is in your neighbourhood, you get a little dizzy. All this? You realize after a moment that for some reason, all of these groups barely work together at all and there’s tension between them. You at once start understanding the dynamics of the shadow politics. When you’re mobilizing in Montreal, you’re not starting from the same square. You don’t have to fight as hard against mass media. The Left succeeded in creating a counter-discourse, and although it’s weaker than we’d like, it still acts in your favour. And you can go further from there.

Being an activist in a region means being far from the “action” and the information. It means not having as many resources as in Montreal. It means willing to get informed and to learn on your own, but that the issues and realities are hard to reach. And also, resources are a lot fewer than if you were in Montreal. Realities are different, and the resources that could make a difference aren’t always there. We don’t have a big library where we can find the information that could deepen our understanding on a certain subject. We have few groups, if any, with whom we can identify and organize and get informed. Alternative media isn’t a part of our culture, and even if you do follow it, the “quality” information you may find is smothered by mass media. Of course we have access to Internet and all the information we can find there, but for that we need to know what to look for, and above all else you need the will to learn, which isn’t implanted in people’s lifestyles.

Being an activist in a region isn’t just negative however. It means knowing that we have a much bigger impact in our communities. A 50 person demo? It’s enough to paralyze the town and to get all the local media talking. It means having greater autonomy, it means being able to

develop our own reflections far from Montreal's sectarian conflicts. It also means getting to know just about everyone at your Cégep as you mobilize. It means truly feeling like a student community, even if some people will run away from you knowing that you're on of the people from the association. It means having a constant feedback from your student population. You've gone too far in your political positions or your mobilization? Don't worry, someone'll talk to you about it in class, at the gym or the cafeteria. It's grueling work, but oh so essential. It means being side by side with the same comrades day in and day out. It's not always easy, but at the end of the day, you become a family and these people help you through the rough patches. These friends will be there if you need them and you'll always be there for them.

And montrealcentrism in all this? It's when you don't bother to listen to criticism brought by associations on how we do things. It's when you don't see the importance of ASSÉ in the development of regions. It's when you completely ignore the participation and transportation costs when it comes to the dues increase. It's when you adopt a superior, even elitist attitude when it comes to smaller associations and when you think you have all the answers. It's when you come to the regions not to help, but to push your political agenda when we're not there yet, and spoil weeks of mobilization and then you have the gall to call us soft on your way out. It's when you hand out your pamphlets and put up your posters without even discussing it with the local association when we have no idea what your Spring 2015 is and we'd only like to know more. We could've been interested, but we simply didn't understand. It's thinking that the regions are going to follow a general strike campaign at the same rhythm without even being informed. It's blaming tourist activism when sometimes we genuinely ask for help, while you invite yourself over. It's not bothering to show up at a national demo in Quebec City but expecting eight buses from the regions to come to a demo in Montreal called a week in advance. It's simply thinking that your privileged reality comes before ours and that you know what's good for us better than we do. It's to transmit your reflections exclusively on platforms consulted by people in Montreal. If this is what you think, take two minutes to ask yourself if by combating domination dynamics that must be forever destroyed, you're not creating new ones. Finally, montrealcentrism is when you leave the region you started organizing in and you begin to forget where you came from and that there's a whole other something outside the metropolis.

We don't want your pity. We only ask that for once, you listen a little further than the Hochelaga archipelago. Where people also struggle every day with all their might for the same causes as you. In a different way, of course, and at their own pace, but still the same causes. We'd tell you that it's high time that we lend each other a hand and take up the struggle once more before it's too late.

Fridoline Bédard (AGECD)

Henrick Bendwell (ex AGECD)

Louis Paulhus (AGECD)

Kathy Teasdale (ex AGECD)

RESIGNATION LETTERS

MARIE-ÈVE TREMBLAY-CLÉROUX'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM THE ASSÉ TRAINING COMMITTEE

(Submitted February 23rd, 2016)

Comrades and friends,

It's with regret and sadness that I announce my resignation from the Training Committee.

It was with a feeling of enthusiasm that I ran for the Training Committee last April in order to prepare the mobilization, and the strike, during the autumn against austerity. Yes, we were collectively exhausted from the spring, but I had hoped that we could start it all up again and build solidarity with the most mobilized workers.

This autumn was a failure. A failure that doesn't belong to the national team, but to ASSÉ's structural capacity to successfully build a social struggle. And consequently, on its capacity to question itself. Founded in 2001 by the few combative student associations in Quebec, ASSÉ has been a powerful vehicle in a struggle against the Quebecois State. In fact, before being a union aiming to defend the rights of the student population in Quebec, ASSÉ has been a space, an environment, capable of bringing together a radical left that is critical of the State and of Capital.

At least, that's the ASSÉ that I remember. But my return to ASSÉ Congresses last weekend confronted me with a harsh reality. Political tension, which can be a powerful vector for internal cohesion, now paralyzes our national organization because it can no longer be properly heard. In this context, I doubt that ASSÉ can still be a vehicle that can effectively fight against neoliberal policies. Of course, Congresses are no picnic. Of course, direct democracy can take time. This isn't the topic of my criticism.

I'm not resigning because of the tense political climate, or because of conflicts within the committee or the rest of the national team. I'm resigning because I don't believe that my energy is well invested in an organization whose practices no longer align with my values. In this context, I don't see how I can continue to be involved in the national team.

See you in the streets,

Love & Rage

Marie-Ève Tremblay-Cléroux

**JEAN-PHILIPPE GUAY-CLAUDE'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM
THE ASSÉ RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
(RAAC)**

(Submitted on February 28th, 2016)

February 28th, 2016

To whom it may concern,

If I may introduce myself, my name is Jean-Philippe Guay-Claude, member of the RAAC since just under a year ago. I took part in several of the RAAC's projects over the year, but for different personal and political reasons I'm leaving the RAAC.

In short, I'm simply offering you my resignation from the RAAC. I believe in ASSÉ and I believe that we must begin preparing ourselves today for the upcoming struggles that the student movement will have to face. This is why I'm going to continue, if some associations ask me, to give conferences on the Demers and Roy-Tremblay reports with my colleagues from the RAAC.

Jean-Philippe Guay-Claude

BENJAMIN GINGRAS' LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM THE ASSÉ NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE

(Submitted on March 5th, 2016)

Hello everyone,

It's with regret that I announce my resignation from the ASSÉ Newspaper committee.

As much as I would've loved to continue my involvement on the committee and contribute more directly to the realization of the upcoming editions of the Ultimatum, I find myself in a situation that renders that impossible. Actually, I've been attributed the translation contract at ASSÉ, and for deontological reasons, accumulating positions at ASSÉ is impossible. Therefore, I can't hold a position with executive responsibilities while being a paid employee.

I'm particularly pleased and proud of the quality of the Ultimatum. As much as our mandates were difficult in a tense and divided political context, I believe we've successfully produced information material that is mobilizing and that reflects the incredible wealth of knowledge of ASSÉ's members and of the Congress' political projects.

I would like to thank and congratulate my comrades on the Newspaper committee for their outstanding work. It was my sincere pleasure to work with you throughout the year. I would also like to thank all the people who contributed to the Ultimatum, be it by writing, editing, and especially by distributing.

I wish the very best of luck to those of you who will succeed us at the Newspaper committee in 2016-2017. Know that I remain available and interested in helping in whatever way you ask, as a collaborator.

To all members of ASSÉ, I wish you the very best in the upcoming struggles, and I hope you enjoy reading the new feminist edition of the Ultimatum!

Yours in solidarity,

Benjamin Gingras

Member of AFESH-UQAM

FÉLICIA ST-ARNAULT'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM THE ASSÉ WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

(Submitted on March 12th, 2016)

Hello comrades,

I must unfortunately offer you my resignation from the ASSÉ Women's committee. For several reasons, both personal and political, but also for lack of time. Having to pay rent means having to work long hours, and the constant traveling to Montreal and its surrounding areas make it all very difficult. Also, the hateful climate conveyed by some associations in Montreal make working in the national team not only painful, but invisible and minimized.

Solidarity with all who are involved in ASSÉ, I'm sorry to leave you like this and I realize that this can seem selfish on my part, but having to manage associations going through their adolescent crises is beyond me and I'd rather deal with my own first.

I'd like to state however that with the Women's Congress fast approaching, I remain available for logistical support, or any other kind of help. In short, I'm not abandoning you.

I'd like to offer special thanks to Raffaella Abbate and Laura Martin who at every moment give their entire selves; you're the best.

In solidarity,

Félicia St-Arnault

ÉMILE SEPTEMBRE'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM THE ASSÉ MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

(Submitted on March 29th, 2016)

I hereby offer my resignation from the ASSÉ mobilization committee.

In solidarity,

Émile Septembre

CANDIDACY LETTERS

MATHIEU NOËL BROUILLETTE'S CANDIDACY LETTER FOR THE POSITION OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY

(Submitted March 27th, 2016)

Friends and comrades,

The time has come for me to submit to you my candidacy for the position of ASSÉ Internal Affairs Secretary.

My name is Mathieu Noël Brouillette and I'd to become, should the Congress accept, one of the three ASSÉ Internal Affairs Secretaries. The reason is quite simple, I take this organization to heart and I believe I can help maintain a strong and cordial relationship between the national team and the local associations. For the rest, please refer yourselves to the praises I make for mobilization in the following paragraph.

Regarding my activist experience, I was involved with the IWW primarily in the organization of events and of information campaigns. I then briefly returned to school. It's actually thanks to my unquenchable thirst for knowledge that I had the chance to meet wonderful people at SOGÉÉCOM (they're the ones who taught me everything). Hence, I became Mobilization Deputy and then Mobilization Delegate on the Executive, where I fine-tuned this magnificent practice, the backbone of combative unionism as an American politician would say; to get out of the office and talk to people, or in other words, mobilizing. It's worth mentioning that I enjoyed my experience as a local "mobber" so much that I ran for the ASSÉ Mobilization Committee. I had the chance to develop my skills in mobilization even further from tour to tour.

So in short, I believe I'm a fairly affable, friendly, and easy to talk to person. If ever you have any questions, I'm entirely at your disposal to answer them.

In solidarity,

Mathieu Noël Brouillette

ÉLISABETH BÉFORT-DOUCET'S CANDIDACY LETTER FOR THE POSITION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY

(Submitted March 29th, 2016)

Comrades,

With this letter, I hereby submit my candidacy for ASSÉ's Secretary of Academic Affairs. I am currently a undergraduate student in anthropology at the University of Montreal.

I began my involvement at SOGÉÉCOM (Collège de Maisonneuve) where I held the position of Assistant to Internal Affairs and helped the local Mobilization Committee. This activist association to which I owe my first contact with the student movement also served as a vehicle towards my national involvement. During the summer following the completion of my college degree, I was in contact with several people who were on the national team to become familiar with the different instances. During the congress held in September 2015, I was elected on the ad hoc Maintenance and Strike Enlargement committee and in the following congress on the Mobilization Committee: the migration from an ad hoc committee to another committee was to ensure, to quote my personal statement on my election "that my work with ASSÉ would become permanent." I am doing mobilization work on this committee since my election; I wish to thank my colleagues with whom I have worked that have taught me so much. I was present at every instance of ASSÉ that I could attend, have followed up with several members of student associations and done mobilization tours, as my mandate indicated.

My involvement today leads me elsewhere. I applaud the work of the Committee for Research and Academic Affairs that has tickled my interest towards this other type of activism: a field, say, more theoretical than practical. I also had the chance to attend one of their meetings to better understand the inner working dynamics.

Reading government reports, pillars of state decisions affecting the educational system, is essential to create a solid argumentative pitch; we must first know our enemy before we fight it. An in-depth thinking is essential : again and again ASSÉ's plea against the commercialization of education is questioned. We need strong and clear demands to deal with these attempts of the public sphere to delegitimize our struggle. The Committee for

Research and Academic Affairs still produces this necessary work tirelessly, like the rest of the committees and the national team who also remain highly invested in their mandates.

Thus, I want to get involved at the executive level to provide support to the national team that is currently working with minimal staff. Field work is as vital as academic work; I would, occupying this position, merge both and lend a hand to internal and external challenges to education. I believe in the militant organization that is ASSÉ. Its existence as a vector of politicization through the transmission of information is essential. Our national association claims to use fighting unionism as a method of combat; in this method, the first essential step is,

evidently, communication!

Whereas official community support is no longer required, I remain available by email if ever an explanation or clarification is needed, and could attend your instances if desired.

Feministly yours,

Élisabeth Béfort-Doucet. elisabeth.befort-doucet@hotmail.fr

CLAUDIA CACHAY-OSORIO'S CANDIDACY LETTER FOR THE POSITION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS SECRETARY

(Submitted on March 30th, 2016)

“Dreams and reality are opposites. Action synthesizes them.”

Assata Shakur

Comrades,

It must be recognized that 2015 wasn't an easy year. Two strike movements left us reeling with uncertainty, tension, repression, and exhaustion. Little good appears to have come from the austerity campaigns we held at ASSÉ.

However, I think it's important to underscore its formative aspect. For me, and for many other students, the struggle against austerity was like activism school. It meant learning to do one-on-one mobilization, to design GA leaflets, and to make banners with whatever we had at an arm's length. It meant overcoming my shyness and speaking up during meetings, during classroom announcements, in assemblies, and to realize that I was at least as relevant as my male comrades. It meant many things, but above all else, it meant realizing all the work that's behind every “Be it therefore resolved” adopted in GA. To transform the principles voted in Congress into local realities is a politicization effort that doesn't stop after the high seasons of mobilization.

This is what drives me to believe that despite the important reflections we must have about our recent campaigns, it's also time to roll up our sleeves and get back to work, because the economic elites and the State won't wait. Modulating University tuition fees, adapting education to private sector interests, deteriorating working conditions in education... but seeing activists mount pressure against ancillary fee increases, protesting against military recruitment on their campuses, or keeping their associations' head over water despite demobilization, I'm confident that we can overcome. It's with this will to support these incessant efforts that I hereby submit my candidacy as ASSÉ Coordination Secretary.

If I may introduce myself, I was an activist at SOGÉÉCOM, Collège de Maisonneuve's union, for about a year and a half. I first got involved with the Women and LGBTQ Committee, then the Mobilization Committee and the Executive as Coordinator. I took a break from full-time studies at my beloved Cégep during the winter of 2015. That brought me to run for the elected team at ASSÉ, first as Secretary-General of Central Council, and then this year on the Social Struggles Committee and the position of Secretary-General of the Coordination Council. Regarding next year, I'll once again be in Cégep in social sciences during the fall and I'll begin my studies in Sociology at UQAM the following semester.

I'll be transparent. One of the main reasons why I'm running is to coordinate the application of ASSÉ's feminist mandates so that they be held up by the whole organization, and

not just the Women's Committee. ASSÉ is a feminist union and that must mean more than just a simple principle in our Bylaws, but rather a constant power relationship with the men in our society and in our political organizations. Too often are they the ones who take up the valued tasks and forget the minutes-keeping or doing the dishes, as if they were done by magic. Too often are they the ones who confidently speak up, while we're taught that our place is in the private spaces, in silence. A flagrant example was during the recent Women's Congress, where for the first time I saw the vast majority of attending delegations take speech turns. Solidarity, to me, means reminding ourselves that our struggle isn't only about white men. We therefore have to ask ourselves, why are they always at center stage?

Finally, here are a few ideas that I have for my mandate:

- Formalizing the ASSÉ national team's training, primarily through workshops and transition documents that are available to everyone.
- Putting in place feminist squads during instances, which would intervene in the case of problematic situations and to ensure that the instances remain a safe space.
- Continue sending the Executive Council's monthly report, and include a section on the financial situation, and make sure that the Committees also send out summaries of their activities.

I encourage you to contact me should you have any questions or comments, or to invite me in your own instances to discuss my candidacy.

In solidarity,

Claudia Cachay-Osorio

HENRICK BENDWELL'S CANDIDACY LETTER FOR THE POSITION OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY

(Submitted on April 1st, 2016)

Comrades,

It's with both joy and apprehension that I announce my candidacy for the position of Internal Affairs Secretary.

With apprehension, because we must stare reality in the face. The internal situation at ASSÉ isn't at all rosy and the Secretaries elected this year will have their work cut out for them. With the current tension between member associations, the criticism of the national team and the Orientation Congress to organize, we'll also have to renew, collectively, the mobilization effort that's been slowed down after two attempts at a general strike that didn't have the expected success. With apprehension also because, even if my mind and motivation are set, my personal situation is difficult at this time and I don't know if I'll have the ability to meet the upcoming challenges while remaining intact.

On the other hand, I'm running with joy, because I believe in ASSÉ. I see ASSÉ as a vehicle for struggle and for developing political awareness and that is essential to the student radical left in Quebec, and the thought of giving back to it brings a smile to my face. The scope of the task is imposing, but it's also stimulating.

My activism began in Drummondville where I was principally External Affairs Coordinator, but also natural sciences representative (before realizing that that position was more for organizing parties than politics), and also Information Coordinator before realizing that my inaptitude with computers and my visual disability limited my capacity to create pamphlets and posters. My experience in Drummondville taught me the fundamentals of activism, of organizing protests, of preparing for Congresses and for doing one-on-one mobilization. It also taught me the importance of the national team whose support allowed us to vote a one-day strike on April 2nd 2015, a first since 2012.

I was then elected to the national team on the Social Struggles Committee. My experience on the committee was rather lukewarm. On one hand, the team we were was certainly pleasant and certain comrades are now my close friends. On the other hand, it made me realize several things. If I initially wanted to be a part of the Social Struggles Committee, it's because that's the role that seemed closest to my former position as External, for which I had a particular affection. What I realized during my term was that the people I liked meeting as External was first and foremost you, the members. I know that may sound cheesy, but it's true.

For this reason and thanks to an extremely flexible schedule, I became involved with the Strike Maintenance and Enlargement Committee during the fall. Even if we didn't end up maintaining or enlarging anything, my experiences during different tours were particularly

positive. I really fell in love with helping local associations in many ways: praesidium, mobilization, handing out newspapers, helping organize, etc. I also got to meet new activists who don't necessarily come to Congress and whose contributions are often forgotten. It's this experience that brings me to run for Internal rather than External Affairs Secretary, which is a more logical step from the Social Struggles Committee to the Executive.

Finally, here I am at SOGÉÉCOM where I'm not as heavily involved due to the fact that I'm not elected here and that the mobilization has since slowed down. I'm also tending to my own wounds and am attempting to restore my finances in order to start my term in such a way as to be able to give more time to the organization. Nonetheless, I'm involved with the FRAC-Maisonneuve and with the Mobilization Committee, depending on my availabilities and well-being.

Finally, in order to give you an idea of what kind of person I am, here's a little sample of the projects that motivate my candidacy:

- Better accessibility for people with disabilities in ASSÉ instances and events.
- Alternative spaces for care, outside of bars and of intoxication culture during Congresses and training camps.
- Better inter-association communication, without necessarily going through the national level, in order to better understand the different local realities.
- Restructuring the national team's work so that it may become more organic, and decentralizing the Executive Council's information towards the rest of the national team.
- Organizing a populous and relevant Orientation Congress, whose reflections will bring real change to ASSÉ.
- Working to demontrealize the national level's work.

If you have any questions regarding my candidacy, I strongly invite you to contact me before the Congress. It'll be my pleasure to answer your questions and talk with you.

In solidarity,

Henrick Bendwell

ROSALIE ROSE'S CANDIDACY LETTER FOR THE POSITION OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS SECRETARY

(Submitted on April 1st, 2016)

Hello comrades,

By the following letter, I announce my candidacy for the position of ASSÉ External Relations Secretary. I'm currently a student in Cultural Animation and Research at UQAM, in my second year. Activist involvement has been at the heart of my preoccupations for several years now, and it's with the objective of continuing in that vein that I'm now submitting my candidacy for 2016-2017.

Like for many others, 2012 was the beginning of my active involvement. Then, at the beginning of my University Studies, I took part in the AFÉA Mobilization Committee, while studying Theatre. My activist involvement took a different turn when I took part in several mobilization tours in Cégeps and Universities, being informally involved in the austerity campaign led by ASSÉ. Meanwhile, following my admission to the program I'm currently studying in, I also informally participated in the mobilization at AFELC until my election this year as AFELC's External Affairs Secretary.

It's in 2014 that I decided to get formally involved with ASSÉ. First, on the Training Committee, where we were mandated to organize training camps throughout the year. Then, in 2015, I was elected as an interim member of the Social Struggles Committee. Therefore, being part of the national team as External Relations Secretary would allow me to participate in maintaining the relationships ASSÉ has with community organizations and the labour movement. For me, it's simply the next logical step, considering my current involvement in the Social Struggles Committee. It's necessary to unite struggles on different levels: feminism, anti-racism, discrimination, environmentalism, LGBT struggles, and many more.

In solidarity,

Rosalie Rose

CHARLES BESNER'S CANDIDACY ON THE LEGAL COMMITTEE

(Submitted on March 5th, 2016)

Greetings everyone,

By this letter, I submit my second candidacy for the formation committee of ASSÉ. I began my involvement in the student movement in AÉCS (Cégep of Sherbrooke) during fall 2012 where I occupied diverse responsibilities, notably as responsible for external affairs and represent to the Commission of college studies. I will also pursue my college course in organic farming techniques at the Cégep of Victoriaville next year.

I keep similar motivations to involve in the national team than the previous year. Firstly, it appears important to my eyes that the regional activist base invest ASSÉ's structures, and this, for the sake of representation and belonging. Secondly, the formation committee's democratization function of the practices and militant culture concord with the role I would like to play in the organization.

In that sense, I also retain the project to build a formative bank and trainers for the next school year, and this, to facilitate access to various workshops on local campus, which will complement the traditional formation camps. I am confident of being able to translate adequately in actions the orientation that will take the congress.

Do not forget what brings us together, otherwise it will be necessary to learn it again.

Cordially,

Charles Besner

SUMMARY

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 2016

(Submitted March 14th, 2016)

Good evening everyone,

A new permanent employee was hired during the month of February: welcome to Éric Faucher! Also, the hiring process for a translator is underway as well as the preparation of the feminist training camp in collaboration with the ASSÉ Women's Committee and the Women's Committee of Cégep de Limoilou. The winter training camp took place on February 6th and 7th at Cégep de Valleyfield. Noteworthy fact, an action took place where several women denounced sexist acts done by participants at the camp. The text that was read can be found in the latest feminist Ultimatum.

Also, the winter Congress took place on February 20th and 21st in Desbiens. Although the space was smaller than expected, many issues were discussed, from the dues increase to the nature of feminism practiced by the various associations affiliated to ASSÉ.

Regarding external affairs, we've notably begun attending organization meetings with the May 1st Coalition. For internal affairs, it's important to mention, as we expected, Cégep André-Laurendeau decided in a referendum to no longer be a member of ASSÉ. An explanatory e-mail was sent out on ASSÉ-Support.

In conclusion, let's not forget that the Women's Congress (non-mixed Congress) will take place in Montreal, at the CAP St-Barnabé on March 26th and 27th. It's possible to sign up by going to the ASSÉ website. Also, the annual Congress will take place in Quebec City on April 1th and 17th. The preparatory documents for these two instances will be available very soon. Reflection texts for the annual Congress (which is also an election Congress) are more than welcome.

In solidarity,

The Executive Council of ASSÉ

SUMMARY OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS' FEMINIST DEMANDS, PRACTICES AND PRINCIPLES

AGECFXG'S SUMMARY

(Submitted March 8th, 2016)

Demands: women, feminism and parenthood

AG-13-02-2014.19 – AGECFXG adopts a position against xenophobia, sexism, homophobia and transphobia.

AG-01-11-12-19 – AGECFXG reiterates its feminist position, encourages alternating between men and women in speech turns and moves to immediately feminize all its official documents.

AG-A06-758 – AGECFXG adopts a position against the consideration of alimony for single mothers and fathers who are students in the financial aid calculation.

AG-A06-724 – For the promotion and accessibility of public daycares and for daycare schedules adapted to class schedules.

Women's Committee

At Cégep Garneau, there's been a (non-mixed) Women's Committee for a long time, since at least the beginning of the 1980s. According to our permanence's memory, the Women's Committee has always been non-mixed. Fitted with their own room and often acting as a safe space, the Women's Committee is the site of discussion groups and debates on abortion, etc.

Over the years, the committee's had its share of highs and lows, sometimes intense, and was sometimes empty. Over the past 15 years, the times at which feminism was the most active coincided with the student mobilizations of 2005 and then 2012. It's worth mentioning that, in some cases, feminist activists preferred getting involved with the Executive while also organizing feminist activities, but it's sometimes difficult to bear the double burden of feminist and student organization (that is, feminist organizing within the Executive while being in a non-mixed committee while also being involved in different struggles). In conclusion, the Women's Committee is currently active and has been so since 2013 and has organized numerous awareness and mobilization activities (namely on consent, rape culture, the Polytechnic massacre, prostitution, cat-calling, etc.) every two weeks or every month. The more recent mobilizations have been around struggles against sexual assault, for feminism, etc. The Women's Committee also manages a Facebook page and has been confronted with an important antifeminist backlash. In 2014-2015, the Women's Committee was the most active of the entire student association.

Board of Directors

Since 2009-2010, regarding the student association's Board of Directors (Garneau's Executive), women do not have equal representation. They represent about 46% of elected officials, although this number is difficult to calculate because of the high turnover rate within the Executive (the number should be above 46% if we exclude the empty positions – so about 50% - and it's been above 50% for over a year). However, in 2011, women represented 63% of the student body. Finally, the position of coordinator has been occupied by a woman over 60% of the time since 2009.

Student movement

It's worth mentioning that female leadership within the student movement has been very present around Quebec City since 2012 (namely within the FRAQ-ASSÉ or the ASSÉ Executive). Regardless, that hasn't always translated into performative feminist demands and gender inequality is still present, namely with "false feminism", "patriarchal ambiance", and gendered division of activist labour. Nonetheless, the question of activist leadership is still (and always) relevant. Female leadership not only allows for a redistribution of powers and responsibilities otherwise appropriated by men, but also to change the organizational and activist culture of student associations and of activist circles (Maxim Fortin, Rouge de colère, October 2012). Finally, we can state that the renewal of feminism in the Quebec City area is probably due to the renewal of the student movement itself or to ASSÉ's leadership in the student movement around the Capital.

AFESH-UQAM'S SUMMARY

(Submitted March 8th, 2016)

Whereas the seventh principle and criteria 4 and 5 of the ASSÉ Bylaws are to be respected,

Be it therefore resolved that ASSÉ respect its Bylaws;

Be it further resolved that, in that sense, AFESH call upon ASSÉ to consider as non-member the student associations that don't have feminist principles, practices and demands, if they don't pledge to rectify the situation before the annual Congress.

January 14th 2015

Recent history of feminist struggles at AFESH

If there've been feminists who have been members of AFESH throughout the years, there hasn't always been a spirit of collaboration. A complete history that can be found on the web journal Françoise Stéréo: <http://francoisestereo.com/uqam-champ-de-bataille-histoire-incomplete-desactions-feministes-sur-le-campus/> . The bylaws include a Women's Committee, which has been inactive for years. Generally speaking, feminists prefer to organize within affinity groups rather than in the association, due to the flexibility and autonomy that come with this model. This is possibly due to bad previous experiences in other student associations. If they submit a request, we can fund their projects, if need be.

Most of our mandates concern reproductive issues or of women's sexuality in a patriarchal system. This domination produces a reproduction of sexual inequality, which feminists seek to counter. Even (pro-)feminist men have committed assaults. The sexual division of labour, leaving women to handle invisible tasks (care, logistics, etc.), is also a theme we touch upon. Our feminist perspective is materialist, which some support to queer and LGBT struggles. Many gaps in our principles, namely regarding students who are parents, could be addressed. Furthermore, we observe that our mandates are adopted in a specific effervescent context which makes them relevant and performative. The subsequent actions allow for a definite impact on people's lives.

Recently, our struggles have centered on sexual violence. For example, several sexual assaulters have been excluded from positions of power, like Ivan Brika (from the band Mise en Demeure), Frank Lévesque-Nicol (then-Coordination Secretary and masters student in sociology with a concentration in women's studies), and Valentin Bellec (sociology student and activist with Spring 2015). We noticed that since the student movement constantly includes new people, sexual assaulters take this as an opportunity to reinsert themselves in these spaces against the will of the survivors. For more information, you may consult the article in issue #15 of Les nouveaux cahiers du socialisme, « Ni déni ni police : réagir aux agressions sexuelles dans le mouvement étudiant » [French only].

Principles

A moral rule or belief that helps you know what is right or wrong and that influences your actions. A basic truth or theory: an idea that forms the base of something.

Source: Webster's online dictionary

Whereas AFESH has mandates to support feminist initiatives after sexual assaults and to support the survivors,

Whereas it is necessary to empower activist collectives in the transformation of society and to abolish rape culture,

Whereas money is the sinews of war,

Be it therefore resolved that AFESH temporarily suspend its funding of collectives that include one or more assaulters that are not presently collaborating with the survivors, for as long as the demands of the survivors are not met.

Be it further resolved that all actions be taken in accordance with the will of the survivors, anonymously, without asking for any kind of proof beyond the survivor's word.

Be it further resolved that AFESH adequately publicize this motion during the grant submission and grant attribution periods.

April 21st, 2015

(...) Be it resolved that AFESH call upon women in the public sector, which is composed primarily of women, to make this strike a feminist one, stretching beyond traditional unionism and refocusing the debate on the question of women's struggles against the State, which systematically deprives women of their right to strike through the Essential Services Act, which condemns women to be the domestic workers of all of society; (...)

February 17th, 2015

Whereas there are obvious gaps in the Quebec education system regarding sexual education and the need for consent to be taught since primary school;

Whereas that sexual assault is an act of domination, humiliation, abuse of power, and of violence perpetrated primarily against women and children by men;

Whereas that sexual assault against women is a systemic phenomenon due to fundamentally heteropatriarchal society;

Whereas that several cases of sexual assault have been denounced in the Montreal student movement after large-scale social mobilizations such as 2005 and 2012;

Whereas the #BeenRapedNeverReported movement demonstrates the extent of the problem that is sexual assault and harassment towards women and that thousands of other women still live in silence or have been murdered;

Whereas that violence towards women is still trivialized through political, journalistic, "comedic" or institutional discourse or through advertising, and that rape culture is omnipresent in mass media and University culture, which is rarely called into question;

Whereas the Women's Center and its activists don't have the energy or the tools to help

or support all victims of sexual assault or harassment;

Whereas the system for submitting complaints regarding sexual assault or harassment, the application of Policy 16, is still inadequate at UQAM since only 4% of complaints filed in 2012-2013 were deemed to be founded, and that this process works in favour of professors in positions of power and that this process drives women to abandon their studies and/or their complaint;

Whereas the justice system is not at all adapted to the reality of systemic sexual violence done towards women;

Whereas Sexual Assault Resource Centres already exist at Concordia and McGill University;

Be it therefore resolved that AFESH demand a diverse, feminist, anti-oppressive and nonheterosexist sexual education beginning in primary school (...)

Be it further resolved that AFESH recognize the choice of survivors to publicly denounce their assaulters or harassers so that this problem may be brought to the public eye, that it become a social issue and that the necessary transformations may be created by the community.

January 14th 2015

Whereas denunciations have been made public;

Whereas there is a disagreement on the collective process regarding how survivors break the silence surrounding sexual assault and sexual violence in our spaces;

Be it therefore resolved that AFESH support the search for a transformative justice process, be it further resolved that it be done in non-mixity.

Be it further resolved that it be done is close collaboration with the victims, according to their needs.

Be it further resolved that it be done in collaboration with feminists.

November 25th, 2013

Be it resolved that CLASSE publicly condemn the sexist, homophobic, ageist, fat-phobic comments held by several comedians during the June 18th show since this discourse and the ideas behind them contravene the basic principles of the organization.

Be it further resolved that in the future, CLASSE refuse to associate itself with any event without previously consulting its members, particularly if it can expect that the discourse at the event may contravene the basic principles of the organization.

Be it further resolved that CLASSE accept 50% of the profits for Juripop anyway, and that part of this money be handed to the Women's Committee.

June 19th, 2012

Whereas AFESH-UQAM has often presented itself as an organization in favour of feminist struggles;

Whereas that, contrary to popular belief, AFESH-UQAM has rarely ratified or adopted truly feminist positions in its General Assembly;

Whereas that this lacking has gone on long enough;

Whereas that feminist struggles must be pursued and intensified for AS LONG AS IT TAKES!

Be it therefore resolved that AFESH-UQAM reiterate its solidarity with women's struggles, feminist struggles, LGBT struggles, queer struggles, intersex struggles, and the struggles related to specific oppressions related to the intersection of multiple oppressions, namely related to class, national origin, skin colour, religion, or sexual orientation;

Be it further resolved that AFESH-UQAM condemn all sexual violence and all non-consented relation, particularly those done towards women;

Be it further resolved that AFESH-UQAM reiterate its support for practices encouraging, within its structures, the disempowerment of men, and allowing for a true equality between the sexes that's not only on paper; such as non-mixed caucuses, man/women alternating in speech turns and equal distribution of different tasks between the sexes;

Be it further resolved that AFESH-UQAM position itself in favour of radical feminist analyses and practices opposed to patriarchal and white heteronormativity, that are critical of the differential capitalist oppression against men and women, and that it also adopt a position that is critical of gender clichés and stereotypes in a deconstructive perspective;

Be it further resolved that AFESH-UQAM recognize and condemn the impact of the different specific oppressions on the living conditions of women, people of colour and LGBT people.

March 30th, 2012

Be it resolved that AFESH-UQAM denounce Minister Christine St-Pierre's inaction regarding the impact of any tuition fee increase on women as they contravene her mandate of supporting "the female condition".

March 30th, 2012

Be it resolved that AFESH adopt an anti-masculinist position.

April 15th, 2004

Demands

An act of demanding or asking especially with authority. Something claimed as due. A forceful statement in which you say that something must be done or given to you.

Source: Webster's online dictionary

Be it resolved that AFESH demand that the administration create a permanent position for a feminist counsellor on the UQAM campus.

Be it further resolved that UQAM and AFESH engage in a feminist campaign against rape culture, since a single feminist counsellor on campus is insufficient.

Be it further resolved that we recommend Audray Lemay as feminist counsellor.

April 21st, 2015

(...) Be it resolved that we found an ad hoc committee for the material and emotional needs of striking students. (...)

September 16th, 2014

This committee would become the Collective Wellbeing Committee, which aimed to publicize, politicize and collectivize care, which is primarily done by women.

Whereas there are obvious gaps in the Quebec education system regarding sexual education and the need for consent to be taught since primary school;

Whereas that sexual assault is an act of domination, humiliation, abuse of power, and of violence perpetrated primarily against women and children by men;

Whereas that sexual assault against women is a systemic phenomenon due to fundamentally heteropatriarchal society;

Whereas that several cases of sexual assault have been denounced in the Montreal student movement after large-scale social mobilizations such as 2005 and 2012;

Whereas the #BeenRapedNeverReported movement demonstrates the extent of the problem that is sexual assault and harassment towards women and that thousands of other women still live in silence of have been murdered;

Whereas that violence towards women is still trivialized through political, journalistic, "comedic" or institutional discourse or through publicity, and that rape culture is omnipresent in mass media and in University culture, and that it is rarely called into question;

Whereas the Women's Center and its activists don't have the energy or the tools to help or support all victims of sexual assault or harassment;

Whereas the system for submitting complaints regarding sexual assault or harassment, the application of Policy 16, is still inadequate at UQAM since only 4% of complaints filed in 2012-2013 were deemed to be founded, and that this process works in favour of professors in positions of power and that this process drives women to abandon their studies and/or their complaint;

Whereas the justice system is not at all adapted to the reality of systemic sexual violence done towards women;

Whereas Sexual Assault Resource Centres already exist at Concordia and McGill University; (...)

Be it resolved that AFESH demand that the administration of UQAM and Student Services create a Sexual Assault Resource Centre with a feminist approach so that qualified people may work there full time.

January 14th, 2015

Whereas that AFESH-UQAM reiterates its support with women's struggles and feminist struggles as well as its support for practices encouraging, within its structures, the disempowerment of men, allowing for true equality between the sexes that's not only on

paper;

Whereas we must recognize the important contributions of women in the previous student strike and recognize the historical involvement of feminists within combative and associative spaces;

Whereas the text in the UQAM student agenda Luttés féministes: toujours pertinentes dans une société sexiste on the relevance of feminism and on violence towards women by men in student spaces was censored, instrumentalized and recuperated by the Agenda Committee of 2013-2014, because among other reasons, they judged the text irrelevant and uninviting;

Whereas initiation/frosh events are sexist, racist, colonialist, classist, homophobic, transphobic, and lesbophobic (for example, the communications frosh in autumn 2013) also demonstrates the necessity of feminism in student spaces;

Whereas male sexual violence, which are a part of a war on women, severely hinders the participation of women in mixed collective struggles including the student movement and that's unacceptable for female activists to be attacked by their own comrades;

Whereas that the efforts of feminists at UQAM against sexual violence by men against women must be supported;

Whereas that AÉÉF [Women's Studies Student Association] wishes to struggle against violence against women including sexual violence and to promote feminism;

Be it therefore resolved that AFESH support feminist initiatives against sexual violence, and that it elaborate feminist information material about feminist struggles in collaboration with AÉÉF and other groups or organizations, and that a popular education event/feminist discussion event on violence against women including sexual assault as part of March 8th 2014 be organized, and that the details of these projects be discussed in a future General Assembly;

Be it further resolved that AFESH condemn the decisions taken by the Agenda Committee of 2013-2014 regarding the text on feminist struggles and it also demand that such a situation never take place again.

Be it further resolved that AFESH financially support the Association étudiante en études féministes (AÉÉF) by offering \$3000 in solidarity.

November 25th, 2013

Whereas a cult of personality may arise if only one person is systematically put forward to represent ASSÉ and that this would be detrimental to the student movement;

Whereas we are in favour of equal representation between men and women;

Whereas we are in favour of equal representation between Cégep and University students;

Be it therefore resolved that ASSÉ name a woman as spokesperson;

Be it further resolved that there be two spokespeople;

Be it further resolved that AFESH remind its national organization of the importance of feminization and of feminist practices as presented in the Bylaws;

Be it further resolved that the choice of spokespeople respect equal representation between

men and women and between Cégep and University;

Be it further resolved that AFESH endorse the candidacy of Camille Robert as spokesperson.

September 22nd, 2011

Whereas AFESH stands in solidarity with feminist struggles;

Whereas AFESH supports several feminist demands and principles;

Whereas AFESH endorses and supports women's struggles (article 1.4.3. of the Bylaws);

Whereas legislative proposal C-484 Unborn Victims of Crime Act is a serious and insidious attack on abortion rights;

Whereas the media and political class are silent on this issue, and therefore little information is reaching the population;

Be it therefore resolved that AFESH oppose legislative proposal C-484 and any other legislation that would negatively affect abortion rights;

Be it further resolved that AFESH participate in providing information on this legislative proposal and on the mobilizations that could be organized to prevent its adoption;

Be it further resolved that AFESH pledge to bring this motion and defend it in ASSÉ Congress.

April 23rd, 2008

Be it resolved that AFESH set up a fund in order to buy keepers and reusable feminine hygiene products.

January 26th, 2005

Be it resolved that the rights and privileges of the Center for Men be stripped and that their space be given to an accredited student group.

April 15th, 2004

Practices

Something that is usually or regularly done, often as a habit, tradition, or custom.

Source: Cambridge Dictionary

At AFESH, most feminists choose to not organize within the structures of their faculty association, preferring affinity groups or the feminist movement, for various reasons. Therefore, this isn't an exhaustive list, not including for example the actions of the sociology or sexology feminist committees. In order to help with the empowerment of entire groups of women rather than only a few women in leadership positions, we've decided not to appropriate them by including them in AFESH's actions.

Basic

- Majority of women on the Executive (but AFESH is composed primarily of women)

- Both permanent employees are women
- Alternating speech turns between men and women in all instances
- All communications are feminized
- Publicizing of feminist collectives' events

Feminist initiatives

- Frequent mood-watching during GA's, including a cell phone belonging to AFESH so that mood-watchers aren't harassed afterwards.
- Menstrual cups available at low cost at Café Aquin
- Frequent "feminist" agenda items during General Assemblies
- Purchase and distribution of large quantities of condoms and lubricant

Annual campaign against rape culture

- Anonymous fund for supporting feminist actions following sexual assault
- Possibility to suspend funding of a collective which includes a sexual assaulter who is not collaborating with the survivors, giving full decision-making power to feminists
- Two explanatory posters and a series of "bubbles" directly addressing passerby's.
- Posters on consent are always available on the mobilization material table in front of the office
- Popular education on the topic of sexual assault on the Facebook page
- Presence on UQAM's Policy 16 on sexual harassment's revision committee
- Support for initiatives seeking to exclude sexual assaulters, at the survivor's request
- Support for any feminist initiative against harassment at UQAM or that is critical of Policy 16, which often leads to media coverage

- Funds dedicated to maintaining the committee for the revision of Policy 16, which was threatened by UQAM's restructuring plan

Support for the feminist movement

- Financial support for the Montreal Sisterhood, for two publication initiatives by sexual assault survivors, for the Edgy Redux Festival, for an activism 2.0 initiative which includes a workshop on cyberfeminism, for a queer and feminist library, a \$1000 dues refund for the women's studies student association, financial support for the feminist magazine Féminétudes, for the group Fillosophie, for an LGBT suicide prevention project, for LGBT correspondence, as well as other anonymous projects.
- Free access to the photocopier for all collectives who request it
- Calendar of activities related to March 8th
- Any student feminist initiative who requests it can have their events publicized

ACSSUM'S SUMMARY

(Submitted March 15th, 2016)

Principles

Foundation of the Women and Sociologies Committee:

- “Be it resolved that ACSSUM encourage and support the foundation of the Women and Sociologies Committee whose goal is to create a safe space for female students in sociology department of the Université de Montréal.

Be it further resolved that ACSSUM recognize the Women and Sociologies Committee as a body that can bring forth recommendations and act as a counter-power.

Be it further resolved that ACSSUM pledge to allocate to the Women and Sociologies Committee the amount of \$2 per member of the association, funds which will be notably be used for purchasing mobilization material, for organizing activities and events, for funding feminist research, etc., on a bi-annual basis.

Be it further resolved that ACSSUM recognize the sovereignty of the Women and Sociologies Committee regarding the management of its expenses. In return, the Women and Sociologies Committee pledges, in the name of transparency, to present its annual budget, upon request.

Be it further resolved that ACSSUM ensure the posterity of the Women and Sociologies Committee by enshrining it in its bylaws”.

Adopted unanimously (April 16th, 2015)

- “Be it resolved that ACSSUM strongly oppose the reduction of an individual to their biology”
(Adopted June 14th, 2012)
- “Be it resolved that ACSSUM adopt a position that anyone – regardless of assigned sex or gender – can be considered feminist in the fullest sense of the word.”
(adopted June 14th, 2012)
- “Be it resolved that ACSSUM condemn any legislative proposal that is detrimental to women’s rights”.
(adopted November 27th, 2013)
- “Be it resolved that ACSSUM reiterate the necessity of considering, in certain feminist actions and spaces for reflection, the place of oppression of embodied feminism and of the practices of men for broader solidarity”
(adopted February 5th, 2015)
- “Be it resolved that ACSSUM proclaim itself for a plurality of feminisms that recognize the different forms of direct violence and of devalorization of women’s

bodies, but also of the broader devalorization of the values and practices historically considered to be feminine”

(adopted February 5th, 2015)

- “Be it resolved that ACSSUM reiterate that it is necessary to consider different power relationships within feminisms, based on class, race, age, religion, sex, ability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, identity, immigration status and gender expression, among others.”

(adopted February 5th, 2015)

- “Be it resolved that ACCSUM encourage the creation of non-mixed safe spaces for all people who identify in full or in part as women within mixed Congresses, allowing for the development of awareness, as well as for the development of discourses and action plans.”

(adopted February 5th, 2015)

- *“Whereas there exists a tendency in ASSÉ Congresses to relegate feminist causes to the second level;*

Whereas we have our own feminist positions;

Be it therefore resolved that ACCSUM reiterate the importance of feminist issues that are multidimensional and that must not be put overshadowed by different societal and activist issues.”

(adopted March 17th, 2015)

Demands

- “Be it resolved that ACSSUM ask professors to develop a greater sensitivity regarding their choice of required reading materials and to consider they underlying gender issues;

Be it further resolved that ACSSUM ask the sociology department to encourage its professors to include more required reading from female authors;

Be it further resolved that ACSSUM mandate its representative to promote this position in the next departmental assembly;

Be it further resolved that ACSSUM do a follow-up of this issue in September 2015.”

(adopted January 13th, 2015)

- Be it resolved that ACSSUM bring this motion, with the following arguments, to ASSÉ:
Whereas women occupy a majority of public sector jobs;
Whereas recent economic stimulus measures principally favour men, while austerity measures primarily affect women;
Whereas the State has progressively abandoned public services in the context

*o*austerity measures, which will impact the invisible work done by women;

Be it therefore resolved that ACSSUM consider austerity measures to be sexist.

Be it further resolved that ACSSUM condemn the government's refusal to analyze the differential impact that austerity has based on gender, and that it insist on the necessity to do said analyses."

(adopted March 17th, 2015)

- *"Whereas legislative proposal 20 adds quotas to the practice of voluntary termination of pregnancies and they are no longer considered to be high-priority medical procedures;*

Whereas the explanations offered by Minister Barrette do not sufficiently reassure us about the potential impacts of this legislation;

Be it therefore resolved that ACSSUM consider this legislative proposal to be an unacceptable regression of women's rights to bodily autonomy, and that we demand its withdrawal." Adopted unanimously

(adopted April 16th, 2015)

- *"Considering AFESH's motion:*

Whereas the seventh principle and criteria 4 and 5 of the ASSÉ bylaws are to be respected; Be it therefore resolved that ASSÉ respect its bylaws; Be it further resolved that, in that sense, AFESH call upon ASSÉ to consider as non-member the student associations that don't have feminist principles, practices and demands, if they don't pledge to rectify the situation before the annual Congress.

Be it therefore resolved that ACSSUM demand a more gradual approach, starting for example with the withdrawal of voting rights and ending with the expulsion of the student associations in question." Adopted unanimously

(adopted April 22nd, 2015)

- *Whereas ASSÉ has adopted motion 6 (Be it resolved that AFESH call upon women in the public sector, which is composed primarily of women, to make this strike a feminist one, stretching beyond traditional unionism and refocusing the debate on the question of women's struggles against the State, which systematically deprives women of their right to strike through the Essential Services Act, which condemns women to be the domestic workers of all of society) in its February 21st-22nd Congress;*

Whereas the RSÉ on September 26th-27th unanimously adopted motion 14 (Whereas women occupy a majority of public sector jobs and are therefore the first to feel the impacts of budget reductions; Whereas that cuts in the public sector increase the invisible workload of women; be it therefore resolved that the RSÉ condemn the sexist aspect of budget reductions and of the increase in job insecurity in the public and para-public sector, as well as the disinvestment in social services.)

Be it therefore resolved that ACSSUM bring a motion of censure towards ASSÉ at the next Congress in order to condemn its participation in the minorization of women's

issues in common struggles.”
(adopted October 13th, 2015)

Practices

Within the Executive:

- Executive currently composed of 7 women and 3 men. The positions with the highest number of responsibilities are occupied by women (for example, general coordination, treasury, etc.).
- The names of the positions are feminized.

Communications:

- All communications with members are feminized, including ACSSUM’s Bylaws.
- Invitations to participate in various feminist events, such as protests, are regularly sent to members.

During General Assemblies:

- Members are required to feminize their comments when addressing the Assembly.
- Speech turns are done by alternating between men and women.
- A mood-watcher is elected when deemed necessary, for example during debates on sensitive subjects.

Activities organized with the Women and Sociologies Committee

- Feminist “4 to 7’s” are organized several times throughout the year in order to fund the Women’s Committee and to promote feminist issues.
- Several conferences/discussions are organized every semester in the form of “Feminist lunch hours”. Professors from all horizons are invited to present different feminist issues.

- Last year's feminist summer University at Université de Montréal was organized with the logistical and financial support of the Women and Sociologies Committee.
- Several workshops on different feminist regarding our department were organized, for example on the presence of female authors in our mandatory reading material.
- A project aiming to develop an index of female authors in sociology through a website (in the same way as what was done for women in political science) is currently being organized.

AECS' SUMMARY

(Submitted March 18th, 2016)

WOMEN RISING!

Several schools of thought, political ideologies, and societal debates are present in the student movement. Most notable are the working class' struggle, the labour movement, and national liberation, particularly in Quebec. But above all else, the issue that will have a profound and prolonged impact in our debates, political orientations as well as the political protagonists in the Quebec student movement is none other than feminism.

The appropriation of women's self-assertion spaces within the student movement is remarkable, especially when compared to the place they occupy in traditional political bodies.

Feminist content has occupied an important place in AECS' publications in the 1980s when a more radical critique of patriarchy was being heard. The condemnation of sexist inequalities and calls for women's mobilization were a regular sight in AECS' student press.

Important problems such as assault and abuse by male teachers are brought to light. Several articles condemn the administration's inaction on this issue and urge AECS' members to file complaints.

AECS' Women's Committee was founded in 1982 by and for female students. At the time, it had its own spaces. The issues it addressed were sexist education and publicity, rape, sexual harassment, domination dynamics, inequality and pornography.

The use of the feminine form in writing can be traced back to the 1980s and continues today. The practice of alternating between genders in speech turns started in 1982: during a General Assembly, the praesidium asked for a microphone to be set up for men and another for women.

These two pioneering practices, along with the inclusion of feminist demands in AECS' platform, demonstrate how equality between men and women has been at the heart of AECS' values for almost 40 years.

Our positions:

Be it resolved that AECS demand, in recognition of women's difficulties and in accordance with feminist ideology:

- Oral and written feminization in all educational institutions;
- Daycare services in all post-secondary educational institutions;
- That the opening hours of daycare services be aligned with class schedules;
- The implantation of nurseries for children under the age of 2;
- That the loans and bursaries program be adjusted according to the needs of student mothers, women, and single-parent families, in accordance with the actual cost of raising children;
- The development and implantation of women's studies departments in all cycles of post-secondary education;

Be it resolved that AECS demand that women have the right to control their own bodies. AECS underscores the importance of abortion rights and pledges to act in favour of women's right to choose with regards to pregnancy.

Be it resolved that AECS condemn any attempt by a legislative project, committee or any other structure that would criminalize abortion or that would legislate this issue in such a way that would harm the freedom of choice or access to abortion services.

Whereas the French language considers the male form to take precedence over the female form and that this consideration reflects the notion that women are biologically and intellectually inferior to men;

Whereas the feminine half of humanity is as important as the other half;

Whereas the first lines of Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms reads as such: "Whereas every human being possesses intrinsic rights and freedoms designed to ensure his protection and development; Whereas all human beings are equal in worth and dignity, and are entitled to equal protection under the law; Whereas respect for the dignity of human beings, equality of women and men, and recognition of their rights and freedoms constitute the foundation of justice, liberty and peace.";

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states in its preamble: "Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

Be it therefore resolved that AECS support the Women's Committee in its demands to retroactively feminize all written documents produced by the Cégep de Sherbrooke.

Be it further resolved that AECS adopt a position against government's draft Charter, and that it condemn its sexism and discriminatory content, and that it actively fight against its adoption.

AESPEP'S SUMMARY

(Submitted on March 30th, 2016)

Hello comrades,

At the last Congress, AFESH-UQAM submitted a notice of motion. This notice of motion concerned feminism, pertaining to the positions, practices and demands within ASSÉ. Furthermore, it directly targeted the student associations that weren't present at the Congress, or that didn't speak up, or that simply didn't have "demands, principles or practices that were 'sufficiently' feminist in order to meet the seventh principle". The targeted associations were called upon to submit a summary of their feminist demands, principles and practices through ASSÉ-Support before the Annual Congress, where the notice of motion would be discussed. Following the notice of motion, SOGÉÉCOM submitted a motion asking all student associations to produce a summary of their feminist demands, positions and practices which would then be sent out to ASSÉ-Support where all members could consult them. This is what AESPEP has done. We've produced our summary of feminist demands, principles and practices.

However, we would like to remind everyone that feminism is plural. And in that sense, all forms of feminism are to be accepted, and that diversity of tactics is a means to achieve our goals. That judging of associations' feminism is akin to reproducing society's patriarchal schemata. Furthermore, if associations are currently affiliated to ASSÉ, it's because they already have feminist demands, positions or practices or are in the process of obtaining them. Let us remind ourselves that it takes YEARS of struggle in order to change a culture or its, values, customs, norms, and traditions. And bearing in mind local sovereignty and other progressive values that are important to ASSÉ's members, local student associations have the right to self-management and self-determination, without the involvement of more influential associations or associations that are more advanced in their feminist realization.

With this in mind, AESPEP has produced its summary, in a positive manner. It means to encourage student associations' local initiatives that aim to adopt positions and to have feminist practices and demands, in a way that is respectful of their local sovereignty and therefore respectful of their realities and their struggles. AESPEP is submitting its summary, to possibly help associations get ideas for feminist positions, practices and demands.

Summary of AESPEP's feminist demands, practices and positions

- AESPEP is in favour of free and consented sexual practices, and rejects any and all forms of sexual violence, be it physical or discursive.
- AESPEP condemns the use of slogans and/or signs and/or promotional videos and/or advertising that refer to sex in a degrading manner or that refer to rape.
- AESPEP is in favour and encourages equality between men and women, meaning that AESPEP pledges to develop feminist tools (such as feminization and promoting alternating between men and women in speech turns), to open spaces for feminist reflection among students in Political science and Philosophy, to support women's struggles and movements and to feminize its Bylaws and all of its communications.
- AESPEP is clearly and publicly in favour of the respect of all opinions expressed in its formal (GA, committee, etc.) and informal meetings between members of AESPEP, as long as these opinions don't include any hateful, racist, sexist, homophobic or transphobic content.
- Be it resolved that AESPEP remind the ASSÉ Congress that feminism is plural and that it implies diversity of tactics.
- Whereas AESPEP has pro-feminist positions; Be it therefore resolved that AESPEP pledge to include in the program's structure any new class dedicated to feminism in Political science and Philosophy so that it may be available as an elective.

Article 18: Feminist Council

The Feminist Council is a decision-making body. In that sense, it can adopt positions on certain subjects and issue mandates to the Executive. Its decision-making power is however limited as it cannot adopt positions that don't concern the cause of feminism. The body is mixed in its deliberations, but non-mixed in its decision-making. Meaning that all members may deliberate, but voting rights are reserved to people of female sex or gender. The positions and mandates adopted in this instance have the same value as those adopted in General Assembly, but any decision impacting the bylaws must be ratified by the GA.

The minimum quorum for the Feminist Council is that a third of the participants are of female sex or gender and are members of AESPEP, or in the case that there are fewer than nine participants who are members of AESPEP, the quorum is of three people of female sex or gender. The Feminist Council must convene at least once during the fall semester and once during the winter semester, with a minimum notice of one week. It may be convened independently from the General Assembly and may also be convened within a GA under the condition that the GA specify that the Council will convene inside the GA. In any case, the Feminist Council must be chaired by a person of female sex or gender. Any member of AESPEP may request that the

Council convene. He or she must submit such a request to the president who then has three days to convene the Council, which must take place at in at least seven and at the most fourteen days after the convocation. All procedures not otherwise specified in the present article are the same as in a GA.

Non-mixed caucus:

If the context requires it, people of female sex or gender may convene amongst themselves to discuss certain sensitive subjects, but may not adopt a position or resolution (except to waive the voting rights exclusivity for people of female sex or gender). The non-mixed caucus is convened as soon as a person of female sex or gender expresses the need for it. Discussions in non-mixed caucuses are based on good faith and must not be used as a means to exclude male members of AESPEP from the dialogue. Therefore, if the chairwoman considers that the request for a non-mixed caucus is done in bad faith, she may refuse the request. It is possible to appeal the chairwoman's decision through the regular procedures for doing so. Once back in mixed Council, the chairwoman must present a summary of the discussions that took place in non-mixity without disclosing any information that would undermine the anonymity offered by the caucus.

Waiving the voting rights exclusivity for women:

The Council may, if it deems it necessary, to give voting rights to all members of AESPEP on certain subjects according to the modalities it deems fit. Waiving the voting rights exclusivity for people of female sex or gender must be done by a 2/3 vote and must be decided in a non-mixed caucus.

MOTIONS

0. CALL TO ORDER

1. PROCEDURES

1.1. Praesidium

1.2. Motion to adopt the agenda

1.3.1. Be it resolved that we adopt this agenda :

« 1. Call to Order Procedures

1.1. Call to Order

1.2. Animation

1.3. Agenda

1.4. Motion to adopt the minutes

2. Welcoming new members

3. Deliberation on notice of motion

4. Summary

5. Finances

6. Women

7. Elections

8. Action plan

9. Demands

10. Submission of notice of motions

11. Varia

12. Adjournment »

Submitted by the Executive Council

(Submitted on April 1st, 2016)

1.3. Motion to adopt the minutes

2. WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

3. DELIBERATION ON NOTICE OF MOTION

3.2.1. *Whereas the 7th core principle and article 5 of the second chapter of the Bylaws, modified in 2013 are to be considered,
Whereas feminist principles, demands and practices are expected to be plural,*

Be it therefore resolved that the Congress invite the associations affiliated to ASSÉ to apply and organize more feminist practices,

Be it further resolved that AGECD, AGEBdeB, AGES, RÉÉSUM, AGEECLG, ABEILL and AGEEM must prove that they have feminist demands,

Be it further resolved that AGECAL, AECS, SCPASA, ACCSUM, FASA, AÉÉCSGUM, AELCUM, AÉMUM, Asso-CETASE, AEHUM, ADÉPUL, AÉÉA-UL, AGEPP-UL, AGÉÉTUL, RÉÉAV, RÉFUL, AHCSSA, AGEMDELCUS, MEDIAS, AECSSP-UQAM, and AGEDEV must prove that they have feminist principles, demands, and practices,

Be it further resolved that AGEDEV must prove that it has feminist principles and practices,

Be it further resolved that the Liberal Arts Society must prove that it has feminist principles,

Be it further resolved that AECSAUM must prove that it has feminist demands and practices,

Be it further resolved that these mandates be sent on ASSÉ-Support,

Be it further resolved that if these conditions aren't met by the annual Congress, that the Congress consider these associations as non-members,

Submitted by AFESH-UQAM

3.2.2. Be it resolved that we add "Article 30" to Chapter 6 "Executive Council" of the ASSÉ Bylaws:

"The minutes of the Executive Council meetings are deemed public. The minutes are put on-line on the ASSÉ website three (3) weeks after their adoption.

Submitted by the Executive Council

(Submitted March 19th, 2016)

3.2.3. Be it resolved that we modify Appendix I of the ASSÉ Bylaws in accordance with Appendix 1 of the preparation booklet.

Submitted by the Coordination Council

(Submitted March 16th, 2016)

4. SUMMARY

5. FINANCES

5.1. *Whereas AÉCSAUM is a small association and that it doesn't have very high dues,
Whereas AÉCSAUM will have difficulty assuming its regular expenses before the end of the semester,*

Be it therefore resolved that ASSÉ allocate \$300 from its Mutual Assistance Fund to

AÉCSAUM

Submitted by AECSAUM

(Submitted March 12th, 2016)

6. WOMEN

7. ELECTIONS

8. ACTION PLAN

9. DEMANDS

10. SUBMISSION OF NOTICE OF MOTION

11. VARIA

12. ADJOURNMENT

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 : MOTION TO MODIFY APPENDIX I OF THE ASSÉ BYLAWS

(Submitted by the Coordination Council)

APPENDIX I : ARREST FUND

Article A27 : PRINCIPLES

The Fund exists in solidarity with those who are arrested in the context of demonstrations and actions that are in accordance with the principles and demands of ASSÉ, as well as those who are facing administrative or disciplinary measures by their educational establishment's administration, regardless of their role or political position in the organization. The Fund considers that all activists arrested in the context of the student struggle have the right to logistical, human and financial support. The ASSÉ Legal Committee seeks to respond to every need expressed by these people and considers that no one should be forced to plead guilty for reasons of financial need.

Article A28 : CRITERIA

The Fund is primarily destined to people who have been arrested in the context of protests and actions that are in accordance with ASSÉ's principles and demands, as well as those who are facing administrative or disciplinary measures by their educational establishment's administration, and who have made contact with ASSÉ's Legal Committee.

Financial resources are allocated to people who request it according to the following order of priority:

1. People facing criminal charges, particularly those that could lead to imprisonment;

1.1. Individual trial: in the case of Legal Aid being refused, the Fund covers all costs related to the defense. Regarding Contributory Legal Aid, the Fund covers the cost of the requested contribution;

1.2. Collective trial (mass arrest leading to criminal charges or individual arrests leading to criminal charges in the context of a single event): the Fund's support is determined according to, among others, the following criteria: the amount of people arrested – the amount of Legal Aid mandates – the amount of lawyers representing the group – the length and complexity of the case;

2. People who are facing administrative or disciplinary measures by their educational establishment's administration, such as expulsion or threats of expulsion;

3. People facing penal charges (e.g.: tickets, mass arrests);
4. People who targeted for their role in political organizing.

Considering the transformation and expansion of the forms of repression, the ASSÉ Legal Committee has a certain degree of flexibility in the application of its mandates, which is oriented towards the preoccupation of offering its support to people who are targeted by new forms of repression.

When evaluating requests for financial aid, the Committee considers the following criteria:

- Other resources (Legal Aid, local associations, etc.) people have access to;
- The risks for targeted individuals and the impacts on their lives;
- Political profiling;
- Equity among requests;
- The impact of a legal decision on current struggles;
- Other considerations.

Article A29 : EXPENSES COVERED

This list applies to people who are representing themselves as well as people represented by a lawyer.

1. Bail;
2. Lawyers' fees (a prior agreement with the Legal Committee is required);
3. Legal fees (transcripts, etc.);
4. Logistical fees (transportation to the venue, etc.);
5. Access to information requests;
6. Other defense-related expenses.

In cases of emergency only, a loan may be done to a person in order to avoid any important consequences related to their prosecution (e.g.: paying a fine after a plea of guilty or a verdict of guilt).

Article A30 : CONFLICTS OF 'INTEREST

Lawyers cannot be elected to the Legal Committee. Members of the Legal Committee must declare to the other members of the Committee any actual or apparent conflict of interest related to any decision. Members of the Legal Committee must recuse themselves from any decision in cases where an actual or apparent conflict of interest may arise. The Legal Committee is accountable to ASSÉ's instances at all time.

The Committee approves of the Bylaws enacted above and ensures their application. It must receive and rule on funding requests for legal defenses. It is also authorized to reimburse accrued expenses, solely upon presentation of receipts.

APPENDIX 2 : CURRENT VERSION OF APPENDIX I OF THE ASSÉ BYLAWS

(Submitted by the Coordination Council)

APPENDIX I : ARREST FUND

Article A27 : Principles

The Fund exists in solidarity with those who are arrested in the context of demonstrations and of the student struggle, regardless of their role in organizing the demonstrations or of their political position. The Fund considers that all activists arrested in the context of the student struggle have the right to logistical, human and financial support. The Committee considers that no one should be forced to plead guilty for reasons of financial need, and it seeks to respond to the needs of all those who have been arrested.

Article A28 : Criteria

The Fund is primarily intended for people arrested during student demonstrations and who make contact with ASSÉ's legal committee in accordance with the following criteria.

Money will be distributed according to the following order of priority:

1. To those facing criminal charges that could lead to imprisonment;
2. To those without access to other sources of funds (legal aid, local associations, etc.);
3. To militants targeted for their role in political organizing.

Article A29 : Expenses covered

1. Transportation to the venue;
2. Legal fees (transcripts, etc.);
3. Bail;
4. Logistical costs;
5. Access to Information requests;
6. Lawyers' fees (a prior agreement with the Legal Committee is required);

7. Other expenses linked to legal costs.

Article A30 : Conflicts of Interest

Those who are accused and lawyers cannot be elected to the Legal Committee. The members of the Committee must recuse themselves from meetings in situations where they might have conflicts of interest of another kind. The ad hoc Legal Committee acts autonomously but answers at all times to ASSÉ's Congress. The Committee approves the Bylaws enacted above and ensures that they are implemented. It must receive and rule on funding requests for legal defenses. It is also authorized to reimburse accrued expenses, solely upon presentation of receipts.