

TO: Senate
FROM: Senator Berglas and Senator Chow
SUBJECT: Question regarding Demonstrations on Campus
MEETING DATE: September 18, 2024
DOCUMENT #: D24-02

PREAMBLE: Lower campus was in a state of partial shutdown from mid-July to August 5, 2024.

QUESTIONS:

1. Was the Charter of Student Rights in effect during the period of partial shutdown? If not, who made the decision to suspend it? If so, does McGill feel that it was effectively upheld during this period?
2. What instructions did Security Services receive from McGill regarding demonstrations on lower campus during the period of partial shutdown? What instructions have Security Services received from McGill regarding demonstrations for this coming school year?
3. What training do contracted security personnel receive on the Charter of Student Rights?

Response provided by Professor Christopher Manfredi, Provost and Executive Vice-President (Academic), and Professor Fabrice Labeau, Vice-President (Administration and Finance).

Thank you for your questions, Senators.

The Charter of Students' Rights was unaffected by protests including during the weeks where lower campus was closed following the removal of the encampment last July.

McGill Security Services' operations are governed by the law and by McGill policies. In the context of protests that involve violations of the law or policies, they will work in collaboration with senior administration and, where necessary, with the Montreal police (SPVM) and/or special constables.

The University has an internal protocol for protests that disrupt University activities. The process is focused on attempts to de-escalate the situation, and allow the protesters to correct any disruptive behaviour. When this de-escalation fails, and after appropriate warnings, authorities are called to intervene.

It is not possible to train all members of private security firms on the details of University policies given the transient nature of staff who are dispatched to work on our campus. However, those individuals take instructions from our permanent Security Services team, who are well trained in McGill policies, including the Charter of Students Rights, the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, and the Policy against Sexual Violence.