



McGill

Question

TO: Senate
FROM: Jonathan Mooney
SUBJECT: Question Regarding Limits on Freedom of Expression
MEETING DATE: May 15, 2013

PREAMBLE: A letter was recently published in the McGill Daily regarding an event titled “Blackface, Ethnic Comedy, and the Tension Between Free Expression and Racism”

The letter states,

[Julius] Grey’s presentation centered on an argument in favour of the right to “free speech” and emphatically against collective rights for minority groups. He went on to argue that racialized/ ethnocultural groups should assimilate rather than organize and assert themselves collectively.

...

Grey’s entire presentation was underscored by the fact that in delivering it, he asserted his own individual right to “free speech” over the collective rights of those present to be protected from his psychological violence.

QUESTION: How does McGill view its commitment to freedom of expression vis-a-vis its commitment to providing an equitable environment founded upon the fundamental dignity and worth of all of its members?
