



Motion Regarding Creation of a McGill Writing Centre Ancillary Fee Referendum Question

Whereas, government Regulations allow the University to increase Ancillary Fees (FIO) annually by \$15 (for students registered in the fall and the winter sessions) and by \$7.50 (for students registered for the summer session);

Whereas, the \$15.00 / \$7.50* increase to Ancillary Fees allowed by the government for 2013-14 will be allocated to the General Administrative Fee to help cover increased costs;

Whereas, consistent with government regulations, SSMU and the University have agreed, that any new Ancillary Fee charged to undergraduate students by the University will be subject to a referendum recognized by SSMU;

Whereas, the McGill Writing Centre (MWC) provides a central resource to students for written communication, including its Tutorial Service;

Whereas, between October 2011 and April 2012, more than 900 appointments with MWC were made, the majority by undergraduate students, both native- and non-native speakers, who benefited from MWC services, with excellent student feedback;

Whereas, a nominal fee of \$1.50 per student per semester is needed to support the continuation of the Tutorial Service as well as to develop new initiatives, such as online writing support, and additional on-site activities, such as a grammar clinic;

Whereas, the proposed fee will ensure that the MWC has sufficient funds to meet McGill students' writing support needs, by hiring and training tutors—the majority of whom are McGill students—to provide one-to-one tutoring to students across disciplines and to develop and present small-group workshops throughout the year.

Resolved, that the SSMU Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2013 referendum period:

“Do you agree to establish a Writing Centre Ancillary Fee of \$1.50 per term per undergraduate student, with the understanding that a majority “no” vote would result in the absence of such a fee and the inability to meet McGill students' writing support needs?”

Moved by:

Haley Dinel, Vice-President (University Affairs)
Michael Szpejda, Vice-President (Internal)
Shannon Herrick, Senate Caucus Representative
Max Zidel, Senate Caucus Representative