



Notice of Motion Regarding Midnight Kitchen Fee Increase Referendum Question

Whereas the Midnight Kitchen (MK) is a volunteer and worker-run organisation that provides a balanced and complete lunch on a pay-as-you-can basis to an average of two hundred and fifty students every weekday; (1)

Whereas the number of students attending servings continues to rise, and MK's funding has not increased proportionally to this need;

Whereas MK strives to make food more accessible by accommodating dietary restrictions, including allergies, gluten intolerance, veganism, and religious needs; (1)

Whereas MK provides free or by donation meal services for McGill student groups and community groups and individuals in Montreal; (1)

Whereas MK hosts a myriad of educational, interactive workshops throughout the school year for McGill students and members of the greater Montreal community; (3)

Whereas MK has been in operation since 2002, and the kitchen perpetually needs costly maintenance and sporadic replacement of old equipment;

Whereas MK would like to buy more produce in bulk instead of getting only low-quality, damaged, and deemed unfit for sale food for free from grocery stores in order to have a more consistent and higher quality amount of food for servings; (6)

Whereas MK would like to expand its services to serving breakfasts, offering drip coffee, tea, other beverages, fruit, and accessible baked goods for free in the mornings; (7)

Whereas the increase of MK's fee will let the organisation expand the infrastructure and organisation of MK, allowing them to further support the community and pool more community building resources;



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Whereas a change in Quebec labour code since MK's last fee raise ensures that staff are paid liveable wages, and wages now take up sixty-one percent of MK's overall budget; (4, 5)

Whereas without the proposed increase MK will continue to struggle to fulfil their mandate of food accessibility; (1)

Whereas being financially accessible is part of MK's mandate as a service, and not all students, individuals or groups who access their array of services are able to donate; (1)

Whereas the opt-outable fee accounts for 99.3% of MK's total funding as a service; (5)

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

“Do you support that the student levy for the Midnight Kitchen, payable and fully opt-outable on Minerva by members of the Students Society of McGill University (SSMU), be raised from \$2.25 to \$3.25 in effect from the start of the semester in Winter 2014 until Fall 2016 (inclusive) at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal?”

Moved by:

Claire Stewart-Kanigan, Arts Senator
Courtney Ayukawa, Arts and Science Representative
Joey Shea, VP University Affairs
Stefan Fong, VP Clubs and Services



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Appendix

- 1 <http://themidnightkitchen.wordpress.com/about/> (MK's mandate)
- 2 <http://themidnightkitchen.wordpress.com/24-2/> (solidarity serving description)
- 3 <http://themidnightkitchen.wordpress.com/2013/06/25/midnight-kitchen-the-union-for-gender-empowerment-and-the-prisoner-correspondence-project-present/> (example of a sponsored workshop)
- 4 <http://www.ces.gouv.qc.ca/documents/publications/anglais.pdf> (Quebec pay equity act)
- 5 <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AknsWYmyNxcydHlrWnVCVzFCUkJrX2V0V1FHOF9wSFE&usp=sharing> (MK's current budget)
- 6 <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V83yTimF2aYk16lrrXtGQAxYJY1r4eOeCBDhuRfj0IM/edit> (proposed monthly bulk order for increased lunch servings post fee raise)
- 7 https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vk1L_6twgh_8t3j8AMtqubEWU-v5Q1e5aN7TruPNMYE/edit?usp=sharing (proposed monthly bulk order for breakfast servings post fee raise)