



Motion Regarding the Renewal of the SSMU Equity Fee

WHEREAS, the SSMU Constitution emphasizes that the Society “commits to demonstrating leadership in matters of human rights, social justice, and environmental protection” and that the Society “commits itself to groups, programs and activities that are devoted to the well-being of a group disadvantaged because of irrelevant personal characteristics”, which include but are not limited to gender identity, gender expression, age, race, ethnic or national origin, religion, sexuality, sexual orientation, ability, language, size, Indigeneity, or social class.

WHEREAS, the SSMU membership voted in the Winter 2013 Referendum to establish the opt-outable Equity Fee of \$0.50 per student per semester;

WHEREAS, the Equity Fee is distributed to student groups via the Funding Committee, which disburses approximately \$10,000 of funding per semester for “initiatives that foster leadership, encourage civic engagement, and make observable and/or measurable differences in the representation or experiences of individuals who are members of historically and currently disadvantaged groups, support projects, research and policies that aim to end discrimination and promote accessibility and inclusiveness in the McGill community”¹;

WHEREAS, the Funding Committee received \$49,000 worth of applications to the Equity Fund in Fall 2015, demonstrating the continued need for equity related initiatives on campus;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Society pose the following question in the Winter 2016 Referendum:

“Do you agree to renew the opt-outable SSMU Equity Fee of \$0.50 per semester, payable by all undergraduate students who are members of the SSMU, starting in Fall 2016 and ending Winter 2021 (inclusive), at which time it will be brought back to the membership for renewal?”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the above preamble be included on the ballot along with the question.

Moved by:

Zacheriah Houston, Vice-President (Finance and Operations)

Erin Sobat, Senate Caucus Representative

Kahli Douglas, Services Representative

¹ Internal Regulations of the Finance and Operations Portfolio, IR-05 Article 21.1