

SSMU Equity Finance Report 2013-2014

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Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Introduction..... | 1 |
| Statement of Problem..... | 1 |
| Research Questions | 1 |
| Significance of Problem | 2 |
| Description of Research Design and Procedures Used..... | 2 |
| School Profiles..... | 2 |
| SSMU..... | 2 |
| University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) | 3 |
| Alma Mater Society of University of British Columbia (AMS)..... | 4 |
| Concordia Student Union (CSU)..... | 5 |
| Association Students University of California (Berkeley)..... | 6 |
| University of Virginia Student Council | 6 |
| Cornell University Student Association..... | 6 |

Introduction

The following report investigates the financing of equity initiatives at various student associations of a similar caliber to the Student Society of McGill University. Further, this report reviews the funding allocation to other entities at McGill committed to equity, specifically SEDE.

Statement of Problem

SSMU has commissioned a report to evaluate its equity financing comparatively to other schools of a similar nature.

Research Questions

1. Where does SSMU get funding for their Equity institutions and equity-related initiatives?
2. How much funding does it get?
3. How much funding do the aforementioned other universities get funding for such institutions and initiatives, and from what bodies?
4. What is the funding allocation breakdown at these other Universities?
5. How does the quantity of funding reflect the quality of equity-promoting culture in SSMU and McGill, compared to other universities and their undergraduate societies?
6. Based on the review of the above questions, how can SSMU increase economic support for equity-related initiatives at McGill?

Significance of the Problem

In recognizing a history of inequality, social equity practices are necessary to move towards equality and provide avenues for addressing times in which equality is infringed upon. Equity recognizes that identities that have been historically marginalized require different and greater support services to achieve equality than those who have been historically privileged. As this cannot be actualized without adequate funding, it is necessary to consistently evaluate funding allocation in regards to equity initiatives.

Description of Research Design and Procedures Used

Six schools were selected to evaluate and compare to SSMU in terms of equity. Each school was selected because of a specific property that resembled that of McGill; in cases in which there were multiple schools that fit the given requirement, a preliminary overview of the schools were done, and the school that was selected appeared to have the strongest equity practices based on this evaluation. For each school selected, the executive responsible for equity practices and finance was identified and contacted. Access to budgeting information was requested and direct questions pertaining to funding of equity specific initiatives were asked. This is where the biggest failure of the study arose; although multiple followups were administered, executives were reluctant to participate in the research. This was likely not because of an intentional lack of transparency, but rather because of a lack of time to dedicated to initiatives outside of their school's interests. Therefore, the report is not as complete as desired, and much of the information is compiled from online sources obtained from database searches.

School Profiles

McGill University: Student Society of McGill University (SSMU)

Student Society: SSMU

SEDE : Social Equity and Diversity Education

Contacts: Veronica Amberg – SEDE Manager - veronica.amberg@mcgill.ca

Sarah Malik – Equity Educational Advisor (Anti-Racism/Cultural Diversity)

sarah.malik@mcgill.ca

SEDE has existed for approximately 7-8 years. Over the years, SEDE has lost quite a bit of funding and staff. Only 5 full time positions currently exist.

What comes out of SEDE

Community Engagement Day: McGill reaches out to different communities in the city of Montreal. There are about 600 students who participate in about 43 projects. Each project is involved with at least one community organization to help students get acquainted with community life outside of McGill bubble. (Funded by: Sustainability Project Fund)

Homework Zone Project an after-school mentorship program that connects McGill students with elementary-aged students in underrepresented neighborhoods of Montreal. (Funded by: Mieghen Fund)

Safer Spaces Workshop: Trains people to recognize and deal with discrimination on campus. Workshop has been running for 4 years and has trained 400+ people. This program is not funded and is run by Tynan Jarrett and Sarah Malik.

Funding

Funding seems to come from multiple different sources every year and its structure is a lot less established than other schools. According to Veronica Amberg, SEDE is funded partly through provost, foundations, and the Dean of Students. In addition, although they were funded through student services, that has recently been cut. Veronica was not able to give me actual numbers in regard to funding. For most of the workers at SEDE, workers would like a more permanent operating budget and structure for staff and also more of an online presence via social media.

University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU)

Student Society: University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU)

Contact: Yolen Bollo-Kamara- VP Equity vpequity@utsu.ca

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Academic & Student Rights Commission | 9,000 | |
| Campus Life Commission | 25,000 | |
| Community Action Commission | 8,100 | |
| Social Justice & Equity Commission | 10,900 | |
| Sustainability Commission | 3,500 | |

Above is the Campaigns and Equity section of the University of Toronto Students' Union's overall budget. Again, the services highlighted are related to social equity. According to the Campaigns & Advocacy webpage, the Campus Life Commission aims to create a safe and inclusive atmosphere for all students by organizing events and workshops addressing student life issues. The Social Justice & Equity Commission advocates on many issues including: ableism, ageism, racism, sexism, queerphobia, transphobia, islamophobia, classism and eurocentrism. This commission also advocates for the rights of marginalized members of the UofT. community and ensures that the university addresses certain discriminatory issues. In addition to this, UofT also has levy groups that are equity related. Below are the fees collected from students that are then redistributed by UTSU for groups related to equity.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Centre for Women and Trans People | \$1.50 |
| Sexual Education Centre | \$0.25 |
| Downtown Legal Services | \$1.50 |
| Ontario Public Interest Research Group | \$0.50 |

Information on these levy groups can be found here: <http://utsu.ca/section/1176>

Lastly, University of Toronto also has equity offices, however, I was not able to find much information regarding their funding. Below is a link that describes what they do. Some information can be found here:

<http://www.hrandequity.utoronto.ca/Assets/HR+Digital+Assets/Equity+Resources/studentequity.html>

Alma Mater Society of University of British Columbia (AMS)

Student Society: Alma Mater Society

Contact: Brett Sinclair – AMS Equity Commissioner equitycomm@ams.ubc.ca

Student Society Budget:

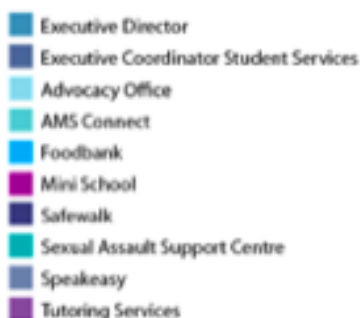
<http://www.ams.ubc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Final-Budget-FY14.pdf>



AMS Expenses



Student Services



| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|--|
| Executive Director | 73,320 | |
| Advocacy Office | 14,737 | |
| AMS Connect | 18,789 | |
| Food Bank | 13,295 | |
| Mini School | 10,249 | |
| Rentsline | 0 | |
| Safewalk | 88,148 | |
| Sexual Assault Support Center | 125,062 | |
| Speakeasy | 34,111 | |
| Tutoring Services | 9,192 | |
| Professional Development | 0 | |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|--|
| Executive Director | 0 | |
| Advocacy Office | 14,345 | |
| AMS Connect | 34,759 | |
| Food Bank | 6,793 | |
| Mini School | 17,848 | |
| Rentsline | 0 | |
| Safewalk | 83,138 | |
| Sexual Assault Support Center | 135,024 | |
| Speakeasy | 38,468 | |
| Tutoring Services | 36,193 | |
| Professional Development | 0 | |

Above is the projected student services budget for the 2013-2014 year along with the actual Budget from 2012-2013. The Services highlighted are the only the one that are seemingly related

to the subject of social equity. As of yet this is the only funding found in regard to social equity at UBC through the student society. These expenditures seem to be collected via student fees. According to the link provided above where the entire budget can be found, the total from student fees is \$395.92. From this, \$7.25 goes to student services and interestingly enough, a separate \$3.37 goes to Sexual Assault Support Center.

Sexual Assault Support Center: <http://www.ams.ubc.ca/services/sasc/>

Speakeasy: This student service offers non-judgmental, supportive advice for any student or faculty member who is experiencing distress or seeking additional community resources.

Concordia Student Union (CSU)

Student Society: Concordia Student Union

Contact: Gene Morrow-VP Academic academic@csu.qc.ca

University's Financial Regulation and Fees:

<http://www.concordia.ca/admissions/tuition-fees/how-fees-are-billed/undergraduate/fees.html>

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Concordia Student Union | \$1.75 |
| Advocacy Centre | \$0.30 |
| Clubs and Associations (non academic) | \$0.25 |
| International Ethnic Association | \$0.06 |
| QPIRG | \$0.31 |
| Queer Concordia | \$0.02 |

Other Social Equity

Access to healthy food is huge at Concordia Peoples Potato 5 vegan meals every week.

Le frigo vert Consumer Co-op: Grocery store, anti oppression, anti colonialism. Regarding food Center 2110 Centre for gender advocacy

Sustainability Action Fund separate from CSU \$6-7000 a year

CCSL every three years budgeting done

Student Services paid in majority by students

OIF obligatory institution fee everything charged above and beyond tuition.

Compulsory fees in document attached 10.26/credit

Under CSU

Clubs are funded

Initial fund for new clubs

Always make request for special club funding events

Above are the Student association & activity Fees in \$/credit. Since there are a lot of non-equity related services, the ones shown above are only the equity related services. The total fee for Fall 2012/13 is 9.63 \$/credit

Within CSU, specific fund/fee levy that goes to legal challenges or proceedings for fighting discrimination. Legal info clinic

Center for Gender Advocacy

Groups on campus are funded by a fee levy structure. The Concordia Student Union (CSU) will run referendums for certain groups that require funding. If approved, the university collects the funds from tuition and redistributes to these groups.

Each faculty also has right to run referendum for fee levys also however only for them

Advocacy Centre

The Centre acts as the grievance officer of the CSU and assists undergraduate students with internal problems, complaints, and requests. The Centre also provides access to external resources and occasionally will support students with off-campus issues. Communication is an integral part of the work we do and our advocates are trained to aid students by effectively communicating their needs and interests to other parties.

International and Ethnics Associations Council

Main objective: To unite Concordia's various ethnic communities, provide students with a sense of belonging, and to preserve and share our unique ethnic heritages

Association Students University of California (Berkeley)

Contact: Sid Reel - Director of Staff Diversity Initiatives – sreel@berkeley.edu -
phone: 5106432846

University of Virginia Student Council

Contacts: Deborah White – DJT@Virginia.edu
Email –GJP8W@virginia.edu - 4342434311

Cornell University Student Association

Contact: Renee Alexander – RTA3@cornell.edu - 6072559596