



Motion Regarding SSMU First Year Council Fee Referendum Question

Whereas, 6,168 first year students were registered in Fall 2012, representing 19.86 percent of the SSMU undergraduate membership¹;

Whereas, there is no existing fee for the SSMU First Year Council or for the support of first year activities within the Students' Society of McGill University;

Whereas, the SSMU First Year Council operates with a budget of \$3,000 to provide events and services for over 6,000 students, which has proved in the past to be largely insufficient to appropriately provide for such a large membership;

Whereas, first year students encounter unique challenges, and possess unique academic and social needs for a healthy transition to university life²;

Whereas, the SSMU First Year Council is a service of SSMU mandated to manage first year affairs by providing services, examples of which include, but are not limited to: creating social events, holding first year forums, collaborating with all first year student groups, and representing first year students at the SSMU Legislative Council; and that the SSMU First Year Council will create a First Year Fund out of its operating budget with the SSMU First Year Council Fee;

Whereas, the First Year Fund will be allocated to empower first year students and first year representative groups of all faculties to engage in initiatives that foster leadership, encourage student engagement, and make positive changes in the representation or experiences of first year students, examples of which include, but are not limited to: student forums and town halls, social events, community outreach programs, and interfaculty/student collaboration;

¹ McGill University – Fall 2012 Admissions Profile <http://www.mcgill.ca/es/admissions-profile>

² Revisiting First-Year College Students' Matting: Social Support, Academic Stress, And the Matting Experience http://www.mcgill.ca/es/sites/mcgill.ca.es/files/rayle-chung_-_revisiting_first-year_college_students_matting.pdf



Students' Society of McGill University
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Speaker
Bureau de Président du Conseil

Resolved, that the membership approve the following question for the Winter 2014 referendum period:

“Do you agree that the opt-outable \$0.50 SSMU First Year Council Fee, which will be paid for by all SSMU members who do not opt out of the fee, to start in Fall 2014, and to be charged for a duration of 3 years until Fall 2017 (inclusive) when it will be brought back to council for renewal, with the understanding that a majority “no” vote would result in the absence of the creation of such a fee?”

Resolved, that with the passing of this fee levy, the SSMU First Year Council, with the approval and aid from the Vice President Clubs and Services, create a First Year Fund out of its operation budget as to create and sustain support for the first year student body of McGill University; and

Resolved, that under the aforementioned terms, the First Year Fund be administered and valued by the SSMU Funding Committee, on which the First Year Representative will sit on and advocate for the needs of the first year student body.

Moved by:

Élie Lubendo, Services Representative

Yann Ehrhard, First Year Representative

Stefan Fong, Vice President Clubs and Services

Billy Liu, Clubs and Services Representative

Sukhmeet Rohan Sachal, Sciences Representative