



MOTION REGARDING ENDORSEMENT OF “NO” VOTE FOR ATHLETICS & RECREATION FEE INCREASE

Whereas, approximately two-thirds of the McGill Athletics and Recreation budget is directly funded by student fees,¹ including the Athletics and Recreation Fee and the Athletics Facilities Improvement Fee;²

Whereas, students also pay additional fees for many core Athletics and Recreation services, including intramural sports and use of the fitness centre;

Whereas, the University administration is requesting an increase to the Athletics and Recreation Fee of \$3.95 per semester per full-time student, and \$2.39 per semester per part-time student;³

Whereas, the University administration currently charges McGill Athletics and Recreation for resources such as legal, accounting, and maintenance services (“overhead charges”), which are provided through the central operating budget;⁴

Whereas, Access to Information requests filed by the SSMU indicate that the funds from these overhead charges are intentionally redistributed from fee-funded (“1B budget”) units to operating grant-funded (“1A budget”) units;⁵

¹ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/ua/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2017-02-08-Budget-Comparisons.pdf>

² <https://www.mcgill.ca/student-accounts/node/18/#SPORTIVES>

³ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Motion-Regarding-Athletics-Ancillary-Fee-Referendum-Question-2017-02-23.pdf>

⁴ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Motion-Regarding-Policy-Against-Ancillary-Fee-Increases-2017-02-20-.pdf>

⁵ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/ua/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Access-to-Information-Request-Overhead-Redistribution.pdf>



Whereas, overhead charges on Athletics and Recreation have increased from \$248 674 in 2014-15 to \$608 132 in 2016-17 (an overall increase of 40%, representing over \$1.5 million in lost revenue during that same time period);⁶

Whereas, despite ongoing student advocacy efforts, net increases to overhead charges on units such as Athletics and Recreation and Student Services have not stopped for almost a decade;⁷

Whereas, the University administration has admitted that the only formula behind determining such overhead charges is the resource constraints of the institution at a given time;⁸

Whereas, recent Athletics and Recreation budget numbers indicate that it is within the university's financial capacity not only to reduce overhead charges, but to increase funding transfers from the central operating budget to fee-funded units;⁹

Whereas, the University administration has previously rejected student proposals to implement women's-only gym hours,¹⁰ and has not released the recommendations of the resulting working group on gym accessibility (originally struck in 2015);

Whereas, the University administration has not released the results of investigations into past cases of sexual violence perpetrated by McGill athletes, nor identified any specific initiatives in response to these cases beyond consent education;¹¹

⁶ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/ua/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2017-02-08-Budget-Comparisons.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2016/09/skimming-your-student-fees/>

⁸ https://www.mcgill.ca/senate/files/senate/question_and_response_re_overhead_charges.pdf

⁹ <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/ua/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2017-02-08-Budget-Comparisons.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2015/03/mcgill-shuts-down-women-only-gym-hours-negotiations/>

¹¹ <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2017/02/are-we-waiting-for-another-scandal/>



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Be It Resolved That, the SSMU formally endorse a “No” vote for the Athletics and Recreation Fee increase referendum question;

Be It Further Resolved, That the SSMU communicate this position to Members through its listserv and social media accounts, and make information on the “No” campaign available alongside its endorsement.

Moved by:

Erin Sobat, Vice-President (University Affairs)

William Cleveland, Senate Caucus Representative

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APPROVED