



Submitted for: November 1st, 2018

## Motion Regarding Restoration of Discretionary Funding for SACOMSS 2018-11-01

**WHEREAS**, the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill Student Society (hereby referred to as SACOMSS) is a volunteer and student-run organization that provides free services, support, advocacy, and education to individuals at McGill and the Montreal community;

**WHEREAS**, SACOMSS strives to be a survivor focused, pro-feminist, anti-racist, anti-ableist, anti-classist, queer-positive, trans-positive and an anti-oppressive organization (see Appendix A, SACOMSS' Mandate)

**WHEREAS**, SACOMSS is a part of the non-opt outable Safety Network Fee comprised of Walksafe, Drivesafe, Nightline, and SACOMSS, receiving \$2.50 per undergraduate student, per semester;

**WHEREAS**, SACOMSS has had discretionary funding in the recent past, as outlined in its constitution provided in Appendix B;

**WHEREAS** the restoration of discretionary funding needs to be approved with the general membership for financial transparency as per the recommendation of a 2016 financial audit;

**WHEREAS**, discretionary funding is funding given to McGill and Montreal community organizations and individuals who align with SACOMSS' mandate per the discretion of the financial coordinator and policy and planning members as outlined in its constitution provided in Appendix B;

**WHEREAS**, examples of discretionary funding may include but are not limited to: subsidizing the short-term costs of survivors that result from their assault, providing funding to organizations that are aligned with SACOMSS' mandate who do work that SACOMSS is unable to directly undertake, or endorsing a mandate aligned community event;

**WHEREAS**, SACOMSS has historically used discretionary funding to sponsor professional enrichment for organizations with mandates congruent to its own, thus contributing to resources for survivors and marginalized persons within the McGill and Montreal community;



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**WHEREAS**, the addition of discretionary funding would not affect the current fee amount or fee distribution and would improve access to SSMU services for the community and student body, and would help keep SSMU accountable for supporting survivors;

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** that the SSMU Legislative Council approve the following question for the Fall 2018 referendum period:

Do you agree to allocate up to ten per cent (10%) of the Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Students' Society (SACOMSS) yearly budget to be used for discretionary funding for the organization's external affairs, beginning in the 2019 Winter semester?

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the Legislative Council endorse this referendum question

**Moved By,**

Ana Paula Sanchez, Arts Representative

Rebecca Scarra, Arts Representative

Andrew Figueiredo, Arts Representative

Tre Mansdoerfer, President

Sophia Esterle, Vice-President Student Life

APPROVED



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## Appendix A

The Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Students' Society (SACOMSS) is a volunteer-run organization committed to supporting survivors of sexual assault and their allies through direct support, advocacy, and outreach.

SACOMSS strives to be a pro-survivor, pro-feminist, anti-racist, anti-ableist, anti-classist, queer-positive, trans-positive and anti-oppressive organization. We provide an accessible, non-judgmental, and safer space for members of many different communities and identifications. All our services are open to the public and are provided free of charge.

The DIAL hotline service can be reached by phone at 514-398-8500. The hotline and drop-in service hours are updated weekly on our homepage and the SACOMSS Facebook page.

From: <http://www.sacomss.org/wp/about-us/> (SACOMSS' Mandate)



## Appendix B

This section outlines the procedure for processing Discretionary Fund requests as defined in Section 9.

1. **Requests.** All applicants will submit a form available for download on the SACOMSS website, and will email the completed application to the Finance Coordinator(s), finance@sacomss.org.
2. **Reviewing Applications.**
  - 2.1. The Finance Coordinator(s) will act at the liaison between SACOMSS, the applicant(s), and SSMU, unless otherwise delegated. In the case where no Finance Coordinator has been elected for that year, the External Coordinator(s) will assume that role.
  - 2.2. The Finance Coordinator(s) will review the application to ensure all necessary information is present. If information is missing, the Finance Coordinator(s) will request the information from the applicant(s) before the General Meeting. Incomplete applications will not be brought to the General Meeting.
  - 2.3. The Finance Coordinator(s) will bring the application to the next General Meeting. If the Finance Coordinator(s) are unable to attend the next General Meeting, they will forward the application to the General Meeting Coordinators.
  - 2.4. The General Meeting will discuss the request and its relevance to the SACOMSS mandate and make a decision using Consensus. If the General Meeting would like more information regarding the application, the Finance Coordinators will contact the applicant and provide an update at the following General Meeting. The following guidelines will be used to approve or reject funding:
    - i. Priority will be given to those projects and applications which adhere to the SACOMSS mandate, particularly if they relate to issues of sexual assault or violence.
    - ii. Priority will be given to projects with limited access to other sources of funding.
    - iii. The amount granted to each application may differ than the original request, based on available funds.
  - 2.5. **Conflicts of Interest.** Active Members present at the General Meeting who have a personal or professional investment in an application or applicant must declare their Conflict of Interest. The General Meeting may ask the member to remove themselves from the decision making process by leaving the meeting



during the discussion and during the voting process.

3. **Notification of Decision.** All applicants will be notified of approval or rejection by email within one week of the decision. In the case of delays due to Quorum not being met at the General Meeting or a request for more information, the applicants must be notified within one week of the reason for the delay. Approved applicants will be notified of:

- i. the amount of funding approved
- ii. the method of payment
- iii. the expectation of the inclusion of SACOMSS promotional material or logo in the project or fulfillment of other conditions
- iv. request for a brief follow-up report about the progress or completion of the project or event

4. **Method of Payment.** The method of payment will be decided on between the applicant and Finance Coordinators, choosing the most appropriate of the following options:

- i. If the applicant is a group or organization with a bank account, the request will be paid as a “donation” through SSMU
- ii. If the applicant is an individual, the Finance Coordinators will create an invoice for the individual, and go through the cheque requisition process through SSMU.
- iii. If appropriate, the applicant may be reimbursed for costs through SSMU. The reimbursed amount may be the total or partial amount of the funding granted.

From: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zgJ5uDmj7pM2RykWRy-Ki7FC4eQekNFnpuWHLuNfs1o/edit?usp=sharing> (SACOMSS' Constitution)