



MOTION REGARDING SSMU SAFETY SERVICE FEE QUESTION FOR WINTER 2019 REFERENDUM

2019-03-14

Submitted for: March 14, 2019

WHEREAS, the Students' Society of McGill University ("the Society") collect an un-opt-outable three dollars and ninety-seven cents (\$3.97) known as the Safety Network Fee for four (4) accredited student services that provide resources such as education, safety and support to members available free of charge;

WHEREAS, McGill Student Emergency Response Team (MSERT), Sexual Assault Centre (SACOMSS), Drive Safe and Walk Safe are the aforementioned four (4) accredited student services that belong to the Safety Network fee category;

WHEREAS, the distribution and fee allocation per Safety Network service is presented in Appendix A;

WHEREAS, the prior distribution and fee allocation per Safety Network service before its fee referendum in October 2015 is presented in Appendix B;

WHEREAS, MSERT is a volunteer operated Service that provides emergency first aid coverage to McGill residences, campus events and the Montreal community;

WHEREAS, MSERT's portion of the Safety Network fee only covered \$33,071 of their \$47,965 operating expenses in 2018 and only covered \$32,519 of their \$55,990 operating expenses in 2017.

WHEREAS, MSERT has been increasingly reliant on first aid course training fees to financially sustain their operating overhead costs to maintain their service and prevent a deficit;

WHEREAS, first responder course training fee accounted for 37.6% in 2018, 30.1% in 2017 and 34% in 2016 of their revenue stream to finance their medical emergency response service;

WHEREAS, MSERT does not have the financial capital to sustain their operations nor does it allow their service to have the financial flexibility to allocate a portion of its budget to grow such as replacing old medical equipment, increasing emergency resources and providing courses at a reduced cost to their volunteers;



WHEREAS, SACOMSS' portion of the Safety Network fee has consistently net a surplus, collected funds less operating expenses, of approximately \$94,720 in 2018, \$74,167 in 2017 and \$28,776 in 2016 after the Safety Network fee referendum submitted October 2015 increasing SACOMSS fee levy of seventy five cents (\$0.75) to two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) starting Winter 2016 and ending Winter 2021 (inclusive);

WHEREAS, the Society has posted a surplus of student funds collected from the all SSMU services, net of funds collected less student opt outs and operating expenses, of \$325,702 in 2018, \$259,867 in 2017 and \$221,520 in 2016;

WHEREAS, SACOMSS' surplus has accounted for 29.0% in 2018, 28.5% in 2017 and 13.0% in 2016 of the Society's total surplus of student funds collected from service fee levies, net of funds collected less student opt outs and operating expenses;

WHEREAS, it is the expertise opinion of the Vice President (Finance) of the Society that SACOMSS' can financially sustain their operating expenses at a fee allocation of one dollar and seventy five cents (\$1.75) moving forward given their past financial statement performance and still have excess capital to grow their operations;

WHEREAS, it is advisable to reallocate seventy-five cents (\$0.75) of SACOMSS portion of the fee to MSERT's portion to finance MSERT's operations without charging students more as there is already significant capital levied through the Safety Network fee;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Society's Legislative Council approve the following one (1) question for the Winter 2019 referendum period regarding the SSMU Safety Network Service fees:

- 1) Do you agree to replace the current fees structure of the un-opt-outable SSMU Safety Network of \$3.97 per student per semester payable by all undergraduate students who are members of SSMU (\$0.60 for Drive Safe, \$0.75 for MSERT, \$2.50 for SACOMSS and \$0.12 for Walk Safe) with a new fee structure of \$3.97 (\$0.60 for Drive Safe, \$1.50 for MSERT, \$1.75 for SACOMSS and \$0.12 for Walk Safe) payable by all undergraduate students who are members of SSMU starting in Winter 2016 and ending in Winter 2021 (inclusive)?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the Legislative Council adopts the actionable aspects of this question and that any grammatical or legal changes necessary do not need the re-approval of the Legislative Council.

Moved by:
Jun Wang, *Vice-President Finance*



Office of the Speaker | Bureau du président du conseil

Tel: (514) 398-6800 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | speaker@ssmu.ca

3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories

Natalie Constantin, *Services Representative*

Rebecca Scarra, *Arts Representative*

Haoyi Qiu, *Science Representative*

APPROVED



APPENDIX A

Safety Network Fee Allocation*		
Service	Fee/per full time student/per term	Fee/per part time student/per term
McGill Student Emergency Response Team (MSERT)	\$0.75	\$0.75
Sexual Assault Centre (SACOMSS)	\$2.50	\$2.50
Drive Safe	\$0.60	\$0.60
Walk Safe	\$0.12	\$0.12

**The Safety Network Fee was created by grouping the four (4) aforementioned services and increasing each individual's fee levy. This fee levy is valid from Winter 2016 to Winter 2021 (inclusive) and was passed with 75.3% in favor.*

APPROVED



APPENDIX B

Prior Safety Network Fee Allocation*		
Service	Fee/per full time student/per term	Fee/per part time student/per term
McGill Student Emergency First aid Responder Team (MSERT)	\$0.25	\$0.25
Sexual Assault Centre (SACOMSS)	\$0.75	\$0.75
Drive Safe	\$0.25	\$0.25
Walk Safe	\$0.05	\$0.05

**Prior to the Safety Network Fee was created, each service levied its own individual fee at the rates disclosed in Appendix B. The grouping was done to ensure collaboration, collective responsibility, transparency and reduce the administrative burden for the capital collected.*

APPROVED



APPENDIX C

MSERT YoY Budget Variance Reports			
Revenue (Expense)	2018	2017	2016
Student Fees	\$33071.69	32519.27	\$32,134.63
Registration Fees	\$22801.00	18760.00	\$20,575.75
Sponsorship	\$1208.00	-	\$1,526.00
Fundraising Revenue	\$406.40	-	\$514.00
T Shirt Sales	-	1024.00	\$1409.09
Previous Year Surplus	\$3029.88*	9980.23*	\$4,362.66
Total Revenue	60516.97	62283.50	\$60522.13
Total Expenses	(47965.18)	(55990.62)	(49,641.90)
Total Surplus	\$12,551.18	\$6,292.88*	\$10,880.23*
<i>Registration Fee over Total Revenue</i>	37.6%	30.1%	34.0%

*These are abridged variance reports shorted for clarity.

*There are discrepancies between a service's year end excess and the previous year surplus that rolls into the next year because of the accounting adjustment period and the requirement to remove all capital expenditures during this period for capitalization onto the Statement of Financial Position



APPENDIX D

SACOMSS YoY Budget Variance Reports			
Revenue (Expense)	2018	2017	2016
Student Fees	\$110,238.98	\$108,397.55	\$68,544.78
Misc. Revenue	-	\$800.00	-
Previous Year Surplus	\$74,0240.08*	\$28,775.92	\$42,941.02
Total Revenue	\$184,263.06	\$137,973.47	\$111,485.80
Total Expenses	(\$89,720.37)	(\$63,806.89)	(\$82,709.88)
Total Surplus	\$94,542.69	\$74,166.58*	\$28,775.92
<i>Service Surplus from financial statements</i>	<i>\$325,702</i>	<i>\$259,867</i>	<i>\$221,520</i>
<i>SACOMSS Surplus over Total Service Surplus</i>	<i>29.0%</i>	<i>28.5%</i>	<i>13.0%</i>

*These are abridged variance reports shorted for clarity.

*There are discrepancies between a service's year end excess and the previous year surplus that rolls into the next year because of the accounting adjustment period and the requirement to remove all capital expenditures during this period for capitalization onto the Statement of Financial Position