



# MOTION REGARDING SPACE FEE QUESTION FOR WINTER 2019 REFERENDUM 2019-03-14

Submitted for: March 14, 2019

**WHEREAS**, the Students' Society of McGill University ("the Society") collect nine (9) opt-outable fees that total ten dollars and thirty seven cents (\$10.37), not including the Space Fee or Menstrual Hygiene Fee, to provide a stock pile of capital to finance initiatives and resources students have deemed necessary through referendums throughout the years;

**WHEREAS**, Campus Life, Club, Equity, Mental Health, Menstrual Hygiene, First Year Council, Ambassador, Community Engagement (Charity), Environment and Anti Violence funds are the remaining aforementioned nine (9) fees;

**WHEREAS**, the distribution and fee allocation per fee levied is presented in Appendix A;

**WHEREAS**, the Space fund follows a non-standard practice of fund allocation through allocating one dollar (\$1.00) indexed to the Consumer Price Index for inflation of the base fee to finance the fund;

**WHEREAS**, the funding for space is necessary for student groups on campus to implement their initiatives, events and operations;

**WHEREAS**, after the restriction change on the Campus Life Fund to allow student groups to apply for space needs due to the University Centre closure, has depleted the fund to an unprecedented level of approximately \$38,000 as of March 4th, 2019 has proven space funding is a necessary requirement;

**WHEREAS**, a separate Space fund not contingent on the base fee will provide student groups with more capital to apply to for space and rental needs;

**WHEREAS**, in Fall 2007, a dollar (\$1.00) increase to the base fee was accepted by the membership on the pretext of improving and facilitating the University Centre space;

**WHEREAS**, a separate Space Fund will alleviate the administrative costs on the Society's operating support staff and provide more resources for them to better the University Centre;



**WHEREAS**, levying an individual fee for a specific purpose is the current precedent which allows for financial transparency and gives student the autonomy to opt in or out of fees at their own discretion;

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the Society's Legislative Council approve the following two (2) questions for the Winter 2019 referendum period regarding the Space Fee:

- 1) Do you agree to the creation of an opt-outable Space Fund Fee of \$1.00 per student per semester, payable by all undergraduate students who are members of the SSMU, starting in Fall 2019 and ending Winter 2023 (inclusive) at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal?
- 2) Do you agree to the cancellation of the current Space Fee structure of allocating \$1.00 per student per semester who are members of the SSMU, indexed to the Consumer Price Index, shall be taken from the base fee for the governance of student space, leaving the base fee unchanged?

**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*  
Gareth Price, *Engineering Representative*  
Shannon Stemper, *Residences Representative*  
Fair Lyons, *Science Representative*



## APPENDIX A

SSMU Fund Fee Allocation*		
Funds	Fee/per student/per term	Fee Expiration/ Renewal Period
Campus Life Fund	\$2.00	Winter 2019
Club Fund	\$2.75	Winter 2021
Equity Fund	\$0.50	Winter 2021
Mental Health Fund	\$0.40	Winter 2021
Menstrual Hygiene Fund	\$0.90	Winter 2020
First Year Council Fund	\$0.50	Winter 2020
Ambassador Fund	\$2.00	Fall 2020
Community Engagement (Charity) Fund	\$0.52	Winter 2024
Environment Fund	\$1.25	Winter 2024
Anti Violence Fund	\$0.45	Winter 2021
Space Fund	\$1.16	None