



# MOTION REGARDING THE INCREASE OF THE SSMU MEMBERSHIP FEE 2019-03-14

Submitted for: March 14, 2019

**WHEREAS**, the Students' Society of McGill University ("the SSMU") is committed to providing service, representation, and leadership to all undergraduates on the downtown campus at McGill University;

**WHEREAS**, the SSMU has grown in size over the last decade by supporting more student groups, providing more services, and providing more opportunities for student employment;

**WHEREAS**, the real dollar amount of the SSMU's current membership fee has been constant since 2007, when \$1.00 was added;

**WHEREAS**, the Academic Research Commissioner Cecilia MacArthur for the 2015-2016 year outlined in the overview in her report on student union base fees that : *"This research looked at the student union base fees students pay across Canada. It demonstrated that the SSMU base fee falls in the middle, although considering the clubs, services, and employment SSMU provides, as well as SSMU's advocacy efforts, the base fee seems low."*;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed fee increase would allow the SSMU to increase staffing reflective of the services offered, while also pursuing renovations to current spaces and acquisition of future spaces;

**WHEREAS**, the increase towards the SSMU's operations with this fee increase would position the SSMU's within the middle range of student society membership fees with reference to comparable schools across Canada;

**WHEREAS**, an increase in the SSMU Membership Fee would have the following staffing implications:

- Hiring of additional accountants
- Hiring of Club and Service full time staff
- Hiring of Governance full time staff
- Hiring of PR full time staff
- Several student staff roles, such as Health and Dental Commissioner, Finance Commissioner, etc.



**WHEREAS**, with the proposed SSMU Membership Fee increase, a minimum of \$800,000.00 would be restricted for large capital projects, including renovations within the SSMU's properties and acquisition of property external to SSMU;

**WHEREAS**, an increase in the SSMU Membership Fee would have the following space implications within the University Center:

- Future renovation for Gerts
- Future renovation for the second floor cafeteria.

**WHEREAS**, the SSMU would have the ability to purchase buildings around the downtown area for additional club, service, and activity space for the student body;

**BE IT RESOLVED, THAT** the following question is sent to the Office of Student Life and Learning for approval:

“Do you agree to the increase of the non-opt-outable SSMU Membership fee, payable by all undergraduate students who are members of the SSMU, outlined in Appendix A per student per semester starting in Fall 2019 with the understanding that a majority “no” vote would result in an increase of the fee limited to indexation of the fee for inflation according to the Bank of Canada CPI (Consumer Price Index) for the province of Quebec (using the rate at the end of March)? Should the fee increase outlined in Appendix A be acceptable, the fee will increase by the CPI as defined above in future years (following 2019-20).

**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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT** the Legislative Council endorse the Increase of the SSMU Membership Fee question and initiate a Yes campaign committee chaired by Tre Mansdoerfer.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT** the SSMU President investigate a way to include specificities pertaining to the fee amount increase in the question.

Moved By:

Tre Mansdoerfer, *President*

Garima Karia, *Arts Representative*

Ana Paula Sanchez, *Arts Representative*



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*Located on unceded, Kanien'kehá:ka traditional territory*



## Appendix A

Full Time Students	Faculty Group A	Faculty Group B
Increase	\$30.00	\$21.60
Total : Fall 2019	\$74.33	\$54.38
Part Time Students	Faculty Group A	Faculty Group B
Increase	\$15.00	\$10.80
Total : Fall 2019	\$36.30	\$26.31

**Faculty Group A:**

Arts, Architecture (B. Sc. Arch.), Education, Engineering, Music, Management, Nursing, Physical/Occupational Therapy, Science, Arts and Science.

**Faculty Group B:**

Law, Dentistry, Medicine.