



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

Submitted for: April 4, 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 accountant
- Hiring of a Club and Service full-time staff person
- Hiring of a Governance full-time staff person
- Hiring of a Public Relations full-time staff person
- Several student staff roles, such as a Health and Dental Commissioner, Finance Commissioner, etc.



WHEREAS, with the proposed SSMU Membership Fee increase, the Vice President Finance will budget accordingly 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 renovations for Gerts
- Future renovations for the 2nd 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 the table below 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 below be acceptable, the fee will increase by the CPI as defined above in future years (following 2019-20).

	Increase for Full-time Students	Increase for Part-Time Students
Law, Medicine, Dentistry	\$10.80	\$5.40
All other Faculties	\$15.00	\$7.50

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



Moved By:

Bryan Buraga, *Senate Caucus Representative*

Garima Karia, *Arts Representative*

Ana Paula Sanchez, *Arts Representative*

Tre Mansdoerfer, *President*

APPROVED

Note: This motion as presented to Legislative Council contained the operative clause ‘and initiate a Yes campaign committee chaired by Tre Mansdoerfer’. This clause was not approved following a division of the question, and as such does not appear in the text of this approved motion. This note is not part of this motion, nor the attached appendices.

Samuel Haward, Parliamentarian, 2019-04-05



Appendix A

Full Time Students	Faculty Group A	Faculty Group B
Increase	\$15.00	\$10.80
Total : Fall 2019	\$59.33	\$43.58
Part Time Students	Faculty Group A	Faculty Group B
Increase	\$7.50	\$5.40
Total : Fall 2019	\$28.80	\$20.91

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.

APPROVED



Appendix B

Position	Benefits
Accountant (Full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Faster cheque request and reimbursement system - Faster funding system
Club Auditor (Part-time to Full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sanction prevention and resolution - Improved communication with student group expectations - Standardizing audit process
Operations Manager (Full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher quality and number of Minicourses - Facilitate club contracts for independent spaces - Room booking specialist
Clubs + Services Manager (Full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clubs + Services problem-solver - Additional resource person for Clubs + Services - Maintenance of online module for student groups
Governance Manager (Full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building of institutional memory - Increase committee effectiveness - Standardization of governance documentation
Public Relations Manager (Full-time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing student body about functions and resources that the SSMU provides - Greater communication to student body through various media - Decreasing miscommunication with the student body
Estimated Aggregate Cost (\$7.50 to \$8.25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Approximately \$300,000</i> to be spent on staffing - Represents <i>approximately 50-55%</i> of fee increase
Long Term Capital Improvement	Benefits
Gerts Renovation / Cafeteria Renovation / Property Purchasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great use of student space in the SSMU Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gerts bar that is multi-purpose - Greater food variety offered in 2nd Floor Cafeteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional space for student groups - <i>Approximately 45-50%</i> of fee increase