



MOTION REGARDING INCREASE AND NATURE OF SSMU EQUITY FEE REFERENDUM QUESTION 2019-10-10

Submitted for: October 10, 2019

WHEREAS, the Students' Society of McGill University ("SSMU") Equity Fee is used, in accordance with the SSMU Equity Policy, to "promote a functional, anti-oppressive environment through recognizing that historical and ongoing processes of oppression systemically disadvantage and harm certain groups of people and by taking proactive steps to challenge the current and historical processes that affect the safety and well-being of these groups, and the actions, attitudes, and assumptions that result from these processes of oppression" (Sections 1.1-1.1.2);

WHEREAS, the SSMU Equity Fee currently finances the SSMU Equity Committee (including the salary of the Equity Commissioners), the SSMU Indigenous Affairs Committee (including the salary of the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner), as well as initiatives from student groups who apply through the SSMU funding application;

WHEREAS, the fund's current balance is (\$5,104), which is Accounting for "negative";

WHEREAS, without proper correction, the Equity Fund is likely to remain low or in deficit indefinitely, hindering both the Equity Commissioners' ability to carry out their roles as well as the ability for student groups to acquire SSMU funding for equity-seeking initiatives;

WHEREAS, the passage of this fee question, as well as the Indigenous Equity Fee question, would mean that the Equity Fee would total \$23,500 for use in the winter semester, assuming a budget of \$5,000 for Fall 2019;

WHEREAS, the SSMU Equity Fee is currently \$0.50 per student per semester, and is opt-outable;

WHEREAS, the SSMU Equity Commissioners fully support these changes;

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU Legislative Council approves the following questions for the Fall 2019 Referendum period:



Do you agree to an increase of the opt-outable SSMU Equity Fee from \$0.50 to \$1.00, per semester, for all full and part-time SSMU members, to start in Winter 2020 and to be charged until Winter 2025 (inclusive), with the understanding that a majority 'no' vote would result in the continuation of current fee until Winter 2021?

Do you agree to make the SSMU Equity Fee non-opt-outable with the understanding that a majority 'no' vote would result in the continuation of the fee being opt-outable?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the “Whereas” clauses of this motion also be included on the referendum ballot;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU 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:

Madeline Wilson, *Vice-President (University Affairs)*

Seconded By:

Victoria Flaherty, *Clubs Representative*