



MOTION REGARDING ADOPTION OF THE SSMU MENTAL HEALTH POLICY AND PLAN 2020-01-09

Submitted for: 2020-01-30

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2020-01-16-003
Moved by:	Billy Kawasaki <i>Vice-President (Student Life)</i>	Current Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Darshan Daryanani <i>Arts Representative</i>		

Issue

This policy and plan explicates the Students' Society of McGill University's approach to student mental health and wellness. It contextualizes the approach with a comprehensive description of the current mental health climate on McGill's campus and across comparable Canadian post-secondary institutions. This compiled research informs the three overarching, multifaceted commitments that the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) shall work towards in the next three (3) academic years. This policy is meant to be understood in conjunction with the SSMU Mental Health 2020-2023 Plan.

Background and Rationale

Student wellness is a subject that has been propelled to the fore-front of instructional dialogue thanks to strong student advocacy and a national recognition that mental health is a *fundamental* component of student success. This policy is meant to lay out a long-term vision for SSMU's continued dedication to the improvement of mental health resource access, promotion, and institutional accountability. The SSMU recognizes not only the importance of working with the Postgraduate Students' Society (PGSS) and the Macdonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS), but also the crucial input of student groups in order to better represent the unique mental health needs of *all* McGill students.

This policy is a living document and will serve as the foundation for future mental health projects. This policy's mandate will last for the next three years; goals and timelines should be updated every semester by the mental



health commissioner and their team to ensure accountability between years, and the achievement of the long-term goals highlighted in the *Three Year Plan*.

This policy seeks to *continue* the work that has been started by countless mental health advocates on campus in the last five years. Through organizations such as the Peer Support Centre, McGill’s chapter of Jack.Org, McGill Nightline, the Sexual Assault Center of the McGill Students’ Society, and more, mental health has become a priority and a topic of critical importance. As such, this policy seeks to build upon these foundations and advocate for tangible changes to the accessibility and diversity of resources; the implementation of new promotional and educational campaigns; and the integration of the 2020 Mental Health Commission of Canada’s Post-Secondary Standards.

Alignment with Mission

This motion is regarding the adoption of the SSMU Mental Health Policy and Plan for 2020-2023 and will serve as the main document of reference for background information on mental health in post-secondary institutions, as well as the various mandates of individuals and groups at the SSMU.

Consultations Completed

The Mental Health Commissioner consulted with various mental health stakeholders as well as community groups. This includes the Indigenous Affairs Commissioner, Queer McGill, Peer Support Centre, McGill’s chapter of Jack.Org, McGill Nightline, the Sexual Assault Center of the McGill Students’ Society, Black Students’ Network, the Eating Disorder Resource and Support Centre, as well as the SSMU Mental Health Outreach Committee and Advocacy Committee.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

There are a few risk factors associated with the policy and three year plan, including but not limited to: communication between on and off campus groups and the Mental Health Committee, not being able to pass a non-opt-outable fee levy for mental health by fall 2021, ensuring that the Deans of Students and Academics follow through with the SSMU expectations of ensuring students are aware of mental and physical health resources on and off campus.



Sustainability Considerations

There are no sustainability considerations or implications.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

The SSMU Mental Health Commissioner will work alongside the Vice-President (Student Life) to ensure that the Mental Health Committee works with various groups, on and off campus, in order to advocate for personalized mental and physical health care that reaches the students who may need it the most. The Month of May shall serve as a transition period.

The Vice-President (Student Life) shall post two job applications no later than April 1, for the position of Outreach Coordinator and Advocacy Coordinator at the end of May.

The Mental Health Round Tables shall be held bi-semesterly.

The Student Mental Health Website shall be designed in the Winter/Summer 2020 and officially launched in late Fall 2020.

A mandatory fee will be proposed in the Winter 2020 Referendum, fee increase to be proposed in the Fall 2020 Referendum, with a goal to have an increased and mandatory fee by Fall 2021.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved, that the Legislative Council approve the SSMU Mental Health Policy and Plan 2020-2023 in Appendix A.

Results of the Vote

In favour ()
Opposed ()
Abstain ()



Appendix A

Please see the correctly formatted policy [here](#).

APPROVED