



MOTION REGARDING INCREASE AND NATURE OF THE CHARITY FUND 2020-03-12

Submitted for: 2020-03-12

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2020-03-12-004

Moved by: Adam Gwiazda-Amsel **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL
 Vice-President (External Affairs) APPROVED
 POSTPONED
 COMMITTED
Seconded by: Adin Chan NOT APPROVED
 Arts Representative

Issue

The Community Engagement Fee, which has not been updated in some time, does not have the capacity to finance large-scale projects in the way other SSMU funds do. This will not allow SSMU and other community groups such as CHASM, ACEC, and SSMU Clubs to be active partners in programming such as Community Engagement Day and Discover McGill.

Background and Rationale

While on the face of it, the aforementioned activities are things McGill should be paying for, it is clear that student spaces at the University are ultimately created by students. A twenty cent increase, approximately equal to \$8280 in additional revenue annually assuming a 10% opt-out rate, allows for significant staffing upgrades and enhanced programming due to an ability to purchase things like bus tickets, small tokens of appreciation, and t-shirts, all of which are essential components of engaging with community organisations.

Furthermore on the subject of staffing, the fee increase will allow the purposeful separation of the Community Affairs and Community Engagement Coordinator positions, allowing us to dedicate a more intentional focus to our Milton-Parc relationship.

It is perhaps important to note that the Community Engagement Fee has previously been used for Indigenous and Francophone student endeavours.

Gross: 2*.20*23000 = 9200



Salary of CEC: $15.04 * 400\text{hrs} * 1.2 = (7219.20)$

Opt-out (10% average): (920)

Additional expense account: 1060.80

Alignment with Mission

The motion before us comes from a year-long series of consultations with stakeholders from across the University involved in community engagement. The consensus is that a “Community Engagement Office” is necessary, and while a Community Engagement Summit has been secured, being able to provide resources in between meetings so that projects can get off the ground is absolutely essential.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The risk is limited because the funding pool is restricted by its mandate. Any staff related to community engagement will necessarily come out of the Community Engagement Fund, as will expenditures specifically related to community engagement.

With the separation of the Community Affairs Commissioner role, there is a risk inherent to both staff needing to use the same fund, but this is mitigated insofar as the increase to the fund exceeds the allocation required for the staff position alone.

Sustainability Considerations

The introduction of dedicated staffing will help further institutional memory necessary to the sustainability of the endeavours begun this year.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

The Vice-President (External Affairs) shall be mandated to form and chair a ‘yes’ committee and, pending the successful passing of the fee, put out a hiring call for Community Engagement Commissioner.



Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be It Resolved, That the following question go to referendum:

“Do you agree to rename the ‘Charity Fee’ to the ‘Community Engagement Fee’, and to increase this fee by twenty (\$0.20) cents from \$0.56 to \$0.76 for the purpose of greater engagement with the Montreal community, with an understanding that a majority ‘No’ vote shall result in the fee remaining at its previous rate?”

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.

Results of the Vote

In favour ()
Opposed ()
Abstain ()



Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

APPROVED