



# MOTION REGARDING REGARDING REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE RENEWAL OF THE MIDNIGHT KITCHEN FEE 2021-02-11

Submitted for: 2021-02-11

<b>Submitted to:</b>	SSMU Legislative Council	<b>Document no.:</b>	LEG-PUB-MOT-2021-02-11-004 (to be assigned by Steering)
<b>Moved by:</b>	Gifford Marpole <i>Vice-President (Finance)</i>	<b>Current Status:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Chip Smith <i>Arts Representative</i>		

**Issue** The SSMU Midnight Kitchen Fee, an opt-outable fee at \$3.35 per student per term originally during the Winter 2007 Referendum, is set to expire after Winter 2021.

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**Background and Rationale** The Midnight Kitchen is a volunteer and worker-run organization that provides free or by donation meal services for McGill student groups and community groups and individuals in Montreal. Since 2002, Midnight Kitchen has provided free, balanced and completely vegan lunches to around 300 students every Monday through Thursday out of the Shatner building, 3480 McTavish.

During the temporary closure of the University Center Building and the Covid-19 crisis, Midnight Kitchen provided emergency food support to student groups and community groups in Montreal through free grocery baskets, prepared meal pick-up services, and food donations to the vulnerable (ie. the elderly, health care workers, shelters etc).

There is increased demand for Midnight Kitchen's essential services in the time of the Covid-19 pandemic and Midnight Kitchen and will continue to have relevance beyond the pandemic.



Midnight Kitchen also strives to make food more accessible by accommodating dietary restrictions, including allergies, gluten intolerance, veganism, and religious needs.

In both Winter 2011 and Fall 2013, Midnight Kitchen passed referenda to increase their fee levy in order to account for the growth in expenditures and goals associated with the overall growth of their service's prevalence on campus, the latter of which questions passed with 72.5% in favour. This resulted in an increase from \$2.25 per student per term to \$3.25. The fee was again renewed and increased in 2016 from \$3.25 to \$3.35.

Midnight Kitchen also offers discretionary funding to projects, initiatives and events in line with our mandate that do not have easy access to funding sources;

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#### Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with SSMU's mission to provide outstanding services for the SSMU Membership.

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#### Consultations Completed

Consultations were completed with Midnight Kitchen, and the Vice-President (Finance).

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#### Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should the renewal of this fee not pass, Midnight Kitchen will not receive the funding necessary to continue their operations.

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#### Sustainability Considerations

The Midnight Kitchen promotes economic and environmental sustainability by redistributing food that would have been thrown in landfills (MK's primary food supplier is Moisson Montreal, which reduces food waste by redistributing the food product surplus of food suppliers, wholesalers, manufacturers, and farmers).

The Midnight Kitchen further promotes social sustainability by providing spaces and resources for environmental activism and facilitating a safer space for all students in accordance with SSMU's Equity Policy;

The Midnight Kitchen further hosts educational workshops on the subject of food and social justice (ie cooking, cultivating, healing) throughout the

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school year for McGill students and members of the greater Montreal community;

Furthermore, Midnight Kitchen fosters community building between the McGill community and external communities via food distribution and an organic on-campus community garden.

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### Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should the renewal of this fee pass, Members will continue to be charged \$3.35/term unless they opt out of the fee. This will allow Midnight Kitchen to continue to provide free or by donation meal services for McGill student groups and community groups and individuals in Montreal basis.

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### Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2021 referendum period:

*(Part 1) Do you agree to the renewal of the opt-outable Midnight Kitchen Fee of \$3.35 per student per semester (excluding summer), payable by all undergraduate students who are members of the SSMU, starting in Fall 2021 and ending in Winter 2026 (inclusive) at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal, with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will result in the termination of all undergraduate fee-levy funding to Midnight Kitchen?*

*(Part 2) Do you further support that Midnight Kitchen continues to be able to offer up to 20% of its fee budget in discretionary funding to projects, initiatives and events in line with its mandate that do not have easy access to funding sources?*

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.

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### Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()