



MOTION REGARDING REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE RENEWAL OF THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE FEE 2021-02-11

Submitted for: 2021-02-11

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2021-02-11-013 (to be assigned by Steering)
Moved by:	Gifford Marpole <i>Vice-President (Finance)</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:	Noah Gundermann <i>Management Representative</i>		

Issue

The SSMU University Centre Fee, a non-opt-outable fee of \$8.02 for full-time students and \$4.01 for part-time students per term(excluding Summer), is set to expire after Winter 2021.

Background and Rationale

The SSMU University Centre Fee, a non-opt-outable fee of \$8.02 for full-time students and \$4.01 for part-time students per term(excluding Summer), pays for the lease between the Students' Society and McGill for the occupation of the University Centre as well as the utilities of the building.

The fee was initially implemented during the Winter 2014 SSMU Referendum period to accommodate increased costs in the lease agreement between McGill and SSMU. While the University Centre was closed, this fee was amended to permit SSMU to use the fee to pay third-parties other than McGill for expenses related to its closure, including storage, movement, use, or occupational expenses.

With the current lease agreement between SSMU and McGill ending, this fee will cover the inevitable costs associated with the renewal and revisions of



the lease agreement as well as ensure that these costs do not conflict with SSMU's operating and service budgets.

Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with SSMU's mission to provide outstanding services for the SSMU Membership by providing an accessible space for all students at McGill.
This motion further aligns with SSMU's policy on Clubs & Services as SSMU's Highest Priority through providing an accessible, low-cost space for SSMU student groups.

Consultations Completed

Consultations were conducted with the Vice-President (Finance), the SSMU General Manager, and the SSMU Comptroller.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should the renewal of this fee not pass, the SSMU would have to incur significant expenses in its operating budget to cover the costs of the lease. This may lead to a reduction in available services to students, reductions in staff, increased prices at Gerts, increased booking fees for student groups, and increased commercialization of the University Centre to absorb the costs.

Sustainability Considerations

This motion considers the economic sustainability of the Society.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should the renewal of this fee pass, SSMU will continue to levy a fee of \$8.02 for full-time Members and \$4.01 for part-time Members per term (excluding Summer) to fund the lease and utility expenses of the University Centre.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2020 referendum period:

(PART 1): Do you agree to the renewal of the SSMU University Centre Fee of \$8.02 per full-time undergraduate SSMU Member and \$4.01 per part-time



undergraduate SSMU Member from Fall 2021 until Winter 2026 (inclusive) at which time it will be brought back to the Membership for renewal?

(PART 2): Do you agree that the University Centre Fee be indexed to increase at a rate of 5.6% per year at the beginning of the Fall semester each year in order to compensate for the year to year rent and utility increases agreed upon between SSMU and McGill?

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.

Be it further resolved that this fee will be used to pay the rent and utilities of the agreed upon lease agreement with McGill. Any excess of the rent and utility payments that is generated by this fee will be internally restricted within SSMU's Capital Expenditures Reserve Fund for building renovation projects.

**Results of the
Vote**

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()



Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

APPROVED