



# MOTION REGARDING REGARDING REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE RENEWAL OF THE SSMU ACCESS BURSARY FUND FEE 2021-02-11

Submitted for: 2021-02-11

<b>Submitted to:</b>	SSMU Legislative Council	<b>Document no.:</b>	LEG-PUB-MOT-2021-02-11-012
<b>Moved by:</b>	Ayo Ogunremi <i>Vice-President (External Affairs)</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>	Hussain Awan <i>Clubs Representative</i>		

## Issue

This motion seeks to initiate the process of renewing the SSMU Access Bursary Fund fee - an opt-outable Students' Society fee providing bursaries to SSMU members - which is up for renewal this semester.

## Background and Rationale

Since its approval at referendum in 1999, the SSMU Access Bursary Fund has provided bursaries, administered through McGill's Scholarships and Student Aid Office, to undergraduate students in financial need. All funds collected by this fee are matched by alumni dollars, making this one of McGill's most significant bursary funds, with over 2,500 recipients of the bursary since its inception. In the 2019-20 academic year, 367 students received \$758,410 in need-based aid from this fund.

The Access Bursary Fund was last renewed in Winter 2016, and as such is up for renewal this semester. This motion would initiate the process of renewal by approving a question to renew the fund on the Winter 2021 referendum.

## Alignment with Mission

The SSMU Access Bursary Fund aligns with the SSMU's commitments to equity and social sustainability, as well as its specific commitments to



accessible education as outlined in the Policy on Accessible Education and Academics.

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### Consultations Completed

This motion was drafted in collaboration with the Vice-President (Finance), and in consultation with the Executive Committee.

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### Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Approving this motion would oblige the SSMU to include a question to renew the SSMU Access Bursary Fund fee on the upcoming winter 2021 referendum. If the referendum question passes, the SSMU Access Bursary Fund would continue to be a source of need-based financial aid for SSMU members, amounting to roughly \$700,000-\$900,000 each year.

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### Sustainability Considerations

This motion aligns with the SSMU's efforts regarding social and economic sustainability, both in the sense of continuing an important precedent and substantively by promoting the financial accessibility of post-secondary education.

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### Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If passed, Elections SSMU would be obliged to include a question to renew the SSMU Access Bursary Fund fee on the upcoming winter 2021 referendum, and the Vice-President (External Affairs) will conduct a 'Yes' campaign to renew the fund during the referendum campaign period. Further, Elections SSMU would be required to communicate the results of the referendum question to the Office of Student Life and Learning and the Student Accounts office, which would implement the decision of the student body.

If this motion fails, the SSMU Legislative Council would have failed to act in a manner consistent with its Policy on Accessible Education and Academics, as well as its mission, especially regarding service and representation, as the student body would be denied the opportunity to express its will regarding a SSMU service.

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### Motion or Resolution for Approval

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



Do you agree to the renewal of the opt-outable SSMU Access Bursary Fund Fee of \$8.50 for full-time students and \$4.25 for part-time students per semester (excluding summer), payable by all SSMU Members, starting Fall 2021 and ending Winter 2026 (inclusive), at which time it will be brought to the membership for renewal?

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	()

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