



MOTION REGARDING SSMU REFERRAL SERVICES FEE REFERENDUM QUESTION 2021-10-28

Submitted for: 2021-10-28

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2021-10-28-002

Moved by: Nathan Claret
Services Representative **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL
 APPROVED
 POSTPONED
 COMMITTED
 NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Sarah Paulin
VP Internal

Issue

The Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) operates referral services, including Nightline, Queer McGill (QM), Union for Gender Empowerment (UGE), Peer Support Centre (PSC) and Eating Disorder Resource and Support Center (EDRSC). The fee increase approved for the referral services during the Winter 2020 referendum period was not sufficient enough to support the full operations of the EDRSC.

Background and Rationale

During the Winter 2020 referendum period, the EDRSC was added to SSMU's referral services through an increase in the Referral Services Fee. The increase in this fee, from \$1.75 to \$3.35, was intended to accommodate the increased operating costs of the referral services and implementation of the EDRSC as a new SSMU Service. During the Winter 2021 referendum period, the fee was increased from \$3.35 to \$3.97 to include the Peer Support Centre. From the \$3.97, \$0.90 of the Referral Services Fee was to be designated for the EDRSC, \$1.10 to QM, \$0.62 to PSC, \$0.60 to Nightline, and \$0.75 to UGE.

This original \$0.90 allocation was calculated based on a 28-week work period when, in fact, the EDRSC's services and staff work 52 weeks per year. Additionally, the EDRSC, now an established and further developed service, is expanding the amount of users its support services can offer and its training branch to provide regular external training around eating disorders and diet culture to the rest of the McGill community. In order to finance the



necessary staff for the EDRSC, the Referral Services Fee must be increased from \$3.97 to \$4.37.

Alignment with Mission

The Referral Services provide support and referrals for Members of the SSMU. The SSMU is mandated to provide services, support, and advocacy, all of which are provided by the Referral Services services.

Consultations Completed

Consultations with the Eating Disorder Resource and Support Centre General Coordinator, and the VP Finance were completed.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should the proposed increase in this fee not pass, the EDRSC will not be able to fulfill their entire mandate as a service and will lead to a reduction in the support that they can offer and training services to the McGill community they can provide.

Furthermore, because this fee was increased just last year, some Members of the Society may have concerns about another increase in this fee so soon after the most recent one. Many will likely wonder why this increase was not accommodated during the Winter 2021 referendum.

Sustainability Considerations

This motion supports the economic sustainability of the EDRSC, the SSMU and its Members as a whole. This motion also takes into account the social sustainability of Members within the SSMU.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this fee increase be approved, the EDRSC will be able to provide full support in alignment with their mandate and the referendum question listed will be presented for approval to the Membership during the Fall 2021 Referendum Period.

An increase in the Referral Services Fee will have no impact on Nightline, Queer McGill (QM), the Peer Support Centre (PSC) and the Union for Gender Empowerment (UGE).



Motion or Resolution for Approval

Whereas, the EDRSC originally based its fee on a 28-week work period when, in fact, the EDRSC's services and staff work 52 weeks per year;

Whereas, the EDRSC is expanding its training branch to provide trainings to the McGill community in relation to diet and workout culture, drinking culture and disordered eating at a larger scale;

Whereas the support services offered by the EDRSC are nearing full capacity restricted by limited funds;

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

Do you agree to the increase of the opt-outable Referral Services Fee of \$3.97 per semester by a further \$0.40 per semester (excluding summer), payable by SSMU Members starting in Winter 2022 and ending in Fall 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 continuation of the fee at its current rate, impacting EDRSC's ability to provide full support in alignment with its mandate.

Be it further resolved, that the 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, a budget must be included as an appendix to the ballot in the event of both a "yes" or "no" result.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(21)
Opposed	(0)
Abstain	(1)
