



Alignment with Mission

This motion is aligned with the SSMU's commitment to groups, programs, and activities that are devoted to the well-being of a group disadvantaged because of irrelevant personal characteristics, as per the Leadership pillar of the Constitution, in the preamble.

This motion further aligns with SSMU's mandate to promote a functional, anti-oppressive environment through, as defined by Article 1 - Interpretation of the Equity Policy, and all of subsections thereof.

Finally, this motion aligns with SSMU's commitment to (point 6) Equity and Social Sustainability as per the Society's Positions Book. Specifically, 6.1 "that the SSMU has a responsibility as a leader, representative, and service provider to conduct itself by the highest standards of respect, fairness, integrity, safety, and equitable treatment for all persons"; and 6.2 "That historical and ongoing processes of oppression disadvantage and harm certain groups of people"; 6.3 "That the practice of equity requires the dedication of material support to reduce intersectional barriers for marginalized groups who may benefit from targeted resources."

Consultations Completed

Consultations were completed with Vice-President (External Affairs), Vice-President (University Affairs), Vice-President (Finance), Black Affairs Commissioner, SSMU Black Affairs Committee, Black Students' Network, McGill African Students Society, Black Law Students' Association of McGill, and Black Varsity Association.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

If this motion does not pass, it would be incredibly difficult for the Black Affairs Commissioner and committee to operate efficiently and it would severely limit the SSMU's capacity to support Black students on campus. The work to support Black students that SSMU has begun would be entirely unsustainable.

Sustainability Considerations

The proposed amendments serve to increase the social sustainability of SSMU's practices and promote a strong, safe and empowering community by minimizing systemic power imbalances within society and fostering a culture of anti-oppression, as outlined in section 3.2 of the Sustainability Policy.



Impact Decision and Next Steps

of Should this motion pass, the Black Affairs fee levy will go into effect as of the Fall 2022 semester, allowing the Black Affairs Commissioner to start working on outlined initiatives during the Summer 2022 semester, for implementation in the Fall 2022 semester.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2022 referendum period:

“Do you agree to create the Black Affairs Fee’ at \$1.50 per semester for full-time students and \$0.75 per semester for part-time students (excluding summer), payable by all SSMU members starting Fall 2022 until Winter 2027 (inclusive), with an understanding that a majority ‘No’ vote would result in the inability for the Black Affairs Commissioner to support BIPOC students and pursue relevant initiatives?”

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 (UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED)*
Opposed ()
Abstain ()

*Note: The motion was approved via Email



Appendix A : Relevant Appendix

This fee would allow for an estimated \$57, 000 yearly budget the creation and implementation of the following initiatives and other initiatives such as, but not limited to:

1. SSMU Payroll for relevant staff members including:
 - a. The Black Affairs Commissioner
 - b. The Black Affairs Coordinator (new position)
 - c. BIPOC Student Rights Researcher (new position)
 - d. Other relevant positions to be created and hired on a need-basis
2. The Black Affairs Annual Awards outlined as:
 - a. A new initiative created over the 2021-2022 academic year by the Black Affairs Commissioner
 - b. Publicly rewarding BIPOC students for outstanding achievements and initiatives as defined by the award descriptions
 - c. Five separate awards per year in the form of:
 - i. Plaques
 - ii. Monetary compensation
 - iii. Academic/ professional opportunities
3. The creation of a Black Affairs Committee newsletter and provide honorariums for guest writers
4. Annual black affairs discretionary Budget (events, programming, and activities at the discretion of the Black Affairs Commissioner and the Vice-President External Affairs)
5. Annual Black Affairs honorarium budget to support:
 - a. Student based Black History month initiatives
 - b. Black affairs fund to grant honorariums supporting student initiatives on campus
6. Black student group fund (to support emerging, new, and existing Black Student Groups)
7. Black Affairs economic impact budget for supporting and building relationships between the SSMU and Black owned businesses
8. The creation of a SSMU Black student space fund, to support new and existing spaces
9. A Black Affairs community budget for supporting and building relationships with community charities/ not for profit organizations serving POC
10. Black Affairs education budget for any community outreach concerned with access to education