

Office of the Speaker | Bureau du président du conseil Tel: (514) 398-6800 | Fax: (514) 398-7490 | speaker@ssmu.ca 3600 McTavish St., Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3 *Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories*

MOTION REGARDING REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE CREATION OF A BLACK AFFAIRS FEE LEVY 2022-02-17

Submitted for: 2022-02-17

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2022-02-17-009				
Moved by:	Sacha Delouvrier Vice-President (External Affairs)	Current Status:	 □ FOR APPROVAL ✓ APPROVED □ POSTPONED 				
Seconded by:	Yara Coussa Arts Representative		COMMITTED NOT APPROVED				
lssue	implementation of a of the Black Affairs Co to support the needs motion seeks to crea	We have recently seen the bolstering of black affairs at the SSMU, with the implementation of a Black Affairs Commissioner and the continuous work of the Black Affairs Committee. In pursuit of the Society's increased capacity to support the needs of BIPOC students on McGill University campus, this motion seeks to create an opt-outable Black Affairs fee levy worth \$1.50 CAD/ semester for full-time students and \$0.75 CAD/semester for part-time students.					
Background Rationale	on campus, contribut for institutional advoc Black Affairs fee levy is Black Affairs Commiss their work. The Black Black Affairs account larger scale initiatives Please refer to Append	ing to the ongoing cacy and equity for s the next step, fol- ioner and the Bla Affairs Fee levy we under the Exter , staff, and program dix A for the define	institutional capacity of Black Affairs g effort of the SSMU to build capacity or Black students. The creation of the llowing the successful creation of the ck Affairs Committee in order to fund ould allow for the creation of a SSMU rnal Affairs department, budget for ms. ed list of goals to be accomplished by r (and other relevant staff) with this				



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Anishinaabe, traditional territories	
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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.	SO
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 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.	
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.	
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.	
	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 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.



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Impact Decision and Next Steps	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



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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