



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AEUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

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MOTION REGARDING REFERENDUM QUESTION ON INCREASE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH FEE

2023-02-09

Submitted for: 2023-02-19

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2023-02-09-025
Moved by:	Hassanatou Koulibaly <i>VP Student Life</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:	Lenardo Miguel Dadulla <i>Nursing Representative</i>		

Issue

The [SSMU Mental Health Policy and Plan](#) implicates the Mental Health Committee in taking action on student wellbeing through both outreach and advocacy, and both current and future initiatives rely on the Mental Health Fee within the SSMU and McGill community.

Background and Rationale

Through the SSMU Mental Health Committee, the Mental Health Fee, an opt-outable fee of \$0.40 currently allows for policy work that advocates for students' access to mental health on campus as well as outreach of current services. However, with an increase of \$0.35, the fee would be increased to a non-opt-outable fee of \$0.75, and would allow an increase in hours and time devoted to mental health initiatives as well as collaboration with current SSMU Safety and Referral Services. These initiatives include Mental Health Action Week, Mental Illness Awareness Week, Suicide Prevention Week and managing various contracts such as myWellness, SSPF and Keep.meSAFE. This would also cover the inflation and increase of minimum wage.

Additionally, the fee increase would also allow the continuation of honorariums for Advocacy and Outreach Committee members, who join these committees on a volunteer basis.

The breakdown of the fee will be as determined in appendix A



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Alignment with Mission

This motion is aligned with the commitment to providing mental health services and initiatives to SSMU Members, the SSMU Constitution, the Mental Health Policy and Plan and the Equity Policy. In the 2020-2023 Mental Health Policy and Plan, the only uncompleted objective within the document was the fee increase (originally planned for Fall 2020). This increase is in line with the plan timeline as it has remained the same since 2016.

Consultations Completed

Consultations regarding the fee increase have been with the Mental Health Commissioner, the Mental Health Advocacy Coordinator, the Mental Health Outreach Coordinator, VP Finance and VP Student Life.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should the fee increase be presented to the SSMU Membership during the Winter 2023 Referendum, a 'Yes' campaign committee will be created with members of the Mental Health Committee to advocate for this fee increase. Resource implications could include social media ads, advocacy campaigns and promotion of the fee increase and its importance.

Sustainability Considerations

Social, economic, environmental and financial sustainability has been considered in the writing of the motion and the proposed fee increase.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion be approved by the Legislative Council and ratified by the Board of Directors, the proposed fee increase will be presented to the SSMU Membership for ratification, during the Winter 2023 Referendum Period.

Should the proposed fee increase fail during the ratification in the Winter 2023 Referendum, the Mental Health Fee will remain \$0.40 until Winter 2026.



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Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that, the Legislative Council approve the Motion and recommend the ratification of this Motion to the SSMU Board of Directors;

Be it resolved that, the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2023 Referendum Period as a Council-Initiated Question;

“A) Do you agree to the increase of the opt-outable ‘Mental Health Fee’ from \$0.40 to \$0.75 per student per semester (excluding summer), payable by all SSMU members starting Fall 2023 until Winter 2026 (inclusive), with an understanding that a majority ‘No’ vote would result in the continuation of the fee remaining at the current amount per semester until its expiry?”

B) Do you agree to the change of the Mental Health Fee from opt-outable to non-opt-outable, starting in Fall 2023 until Winter 2026 (inclusive), with an understanding that a majority ‘no’ vote would result in the continuation of the fee remaining opt-outable per semester until its expiry, limiting the expansion of operations and initiatives by the Mental Health Department at the SSMU?”

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

<input type="checkbox"/> In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
<input type="checkbox"/> Opposed	()
<input type="checkbox"/> Abstain	()



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Appendix A : Proposed Budget

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eKVJrL2tj0I2jGSsYGsyqh0nYY0kMp34KE8j9INvt9A/edit?usp=sharing>

APPROVED