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 STUDENT SUPPORT FEE REFERENDUM QUESTION 2023-02-09

Submitted for: 2023-02-09

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	**Document no.:**	LEG-PUB-MOT-2023-02-09-004
Moved by:	Lenardo Miguel Dadulla *Nursing Representative*	**Current Status:**	☐ FOR APPROVAL ☐ APPROVED ☐ POSTPONED ☐ COMMITTED ✓ NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Mahidul Syed *Dentistry Representative*		

Issue	Student Support is seeking a renewal for its opt-outable levy fee for 11.03/semester in exchange for providing McGill students access to Mental Health, Academic, and Career support for a 5 year term.

Background and Rationale	The Student Support fee was passed via a referendum in March 2022 in order to provide students access to the services for a trial period, so students could vote on extending the fee term during winter 2023 for an extended period (see SSMU Student Support Fee (SSST)). The services currently being provided by Student Support are: Calm – Calm is the world's most recognized wellness and meditation platform proven to reduce stress and quality of sleep. It's been named as Apple's App of the Year, has been ranked #2 in the App Store, and received Google Play Editor's Choice. Using Calm can reduce student stress, improve mindfulness, and increase self-compassion. Grammarly – Is a writing assistant software that helps users review spelling, grammar, punctuation, clarity, engagement and delivery mistakes. Udemy - Udemy is the world's leading online learning and teaching marketplace providing access to over 17,000 courses on leadership, management, technology, business, wellness, marketing & more.

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

<u>The Student Support Trial</u>

When the motion was presented in March 2022 Student Support projected an 8% usage rate for the Mental Health tool (Calm), 13% for the writing aid tool (Grammarly), and 20% for career support (Udemy).

The annual subscription cost for these 3 services as listed on their official websites is: Calm[1] $76.99 CAD, Udemy[2] $360 USD, and Grammarly $144 USD. When converted to Canadian Dollars and applying a conversion rate of 1 USD = 1.26 CAD, this would be **$712.03 CAD annually.** Through Student Support, these services were provided at **$19.98 CAD annually ($9.99 CAD/semester**) for a period of 1-year. Student Support was projected in 2022 to save students $2,009,728 based on the following table presented to the legislative council:

Estimated Student Savings
*Based on a ppulation of 20,000 undergraduates (after a 15% opt-out rate)

Service	Case Study Usage Rate	Service Cost per Subscription	Total Cost For Students
Calm*	8%	$76.99 CAD	$123,184
Grammarly*	13%	$181.44 CAD	$471,744
Udemy*	20%	$453.60 CAD	$1,814,400
Total Cost of Services			$2,409,328
Student Support Fee (2 Semesters)			$399,600
Student Savings			$2,009,728

*Calm, and Grammarly usage are based off of case studies at University settings. Udemy Case Studies estimate a 70% usage rate in the public/private sector sphere.

<u>Review: September 2022 - January 2023</u>

<u>Usage</u>

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

Since Fall 2022, 46.6% of opted-in SSMU members have been active Student Support members, with a projected total usage rate of 58% by the end of the academic term. The usage rate at McGill for Calm is 26%, 24% for Udemy, and 41% for Grammarly as of Jan 30th, 2023.

Fees collected: $201,312.99 (1 semester)

Student savings: The original cost per student is $712.03, The Student Support levy is $19.98 (2 semesters), $712.03 - $19.98 = $692.05 (total savings per student).

<div align="center">Winter 2023 Referendum</div>

To provide students access to Calm, Udemy, and ProWritingAid for an opt-outable fee of $11.03 per semester. Whereas the original fee was $9.99 the fee adjusted to inflation accounts for a 2% inflation rate over 5 years.

In response to student feedback where 44% of McGill students reported Grammarly generating inaccuracies and mistakes, and consultation from council, Student Support is switching the writing aid tool from Grammarly to ProWritingAid. The service has the same features as Grammarly and additional ones such as special tools for CV/Resume review, technical writing, academic writing (such as abstracts) and more. ProWritingAid is one of the world's leading writing assistant softwares used by leading organizations such as Amazon, Microsoft, Accenture, and numerous universities. This upgrade will be implemented in September 2023 to ensure McGill students are getting access to the highest quality writing aid tools.

The annual costs for Calm is $76.99 CAD, $360USD for Udemy, and $120USD for ProwritingAid totalling $720.19 CAD with conversion rate below. Udemy and ProWritingAid costs are only listed in USD on their websites. The conversion rate from January 30th, 2023 is used: 1 USD = 1.34 CAD. The annual price calculated does not include taxes.

Based on current usage

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

1. Calm Pricing: https://www.calm.com/freetrial/plans
2. Udemy Pricing: https://business.udemy.com/plans/
3. ProWritingAid Pricing: https://prowritingaid.com/en/App/Purchase

Alignment with Mission	SSMU is committed to supporting mental health initiatives, academic success, and financial wellness for their membership. Student Support offers services that align with SSMU's at a competitive, affordable rate.
Consultations Completed	This question has been discussed with the SSMU Vice-President Finance.
Risk Factors and Resource Implications	If this question does not pass the referendum, students will not get continued discounted access to Calm, ProWritingAid, and Udemy.
Sustainability Considerations	This fee would allow mental health and academic services to be available at an affordable rate for McGill students, aligning with SSMU's mission to promote financial sustainability with the membership.
Impact of Decision and Next Steps	The question would be included in the Winter 2023 Referendum period by Elections SSMU and sent to the Membership for approval. If the question is approved by the Membership, the fee will be into effect as of the semester of Fall 2023.
Motion or Resolution for Approval	The question would be included in the Winter 2023 Referendum Period by Elections SSMU and sent to the Membership for approval. If the question is approved by the Membership, the fee increase will go into effect as of Fall 2023 semester. Be it resolved that the

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

Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2023 referendum period:

Whereas, Student Support is an organization that provides students with access to services at an affordable rate to help ease their academic experience.

Whereas, the SSMU Student Support Fee is a single fee that will offer the following services: ProWritingAid, Udemy, and Calm at a discounted rate.

Whereas, the annual subscription cost for these 3 services as listed on their official websites is: Calm[1] $76.99 CAD, Udemy[2] $360 USD, and ProWriting Aid[3] $120USD, and when converted to Canadian Dollars and applying a conversion rate of 1 USD = 1.34 CAD, **this would be $720.19 CAD annually[4].** Through Student Support, we will be providing these three services at **$20.58 CAD annually (10.29 CAD/semester)**, a 95% reduction in price.

Whereas, Student Support is looking to onboard additional services in the future, taking input from McGill students on what services are needed, and working towards creating these partnerships over the coming months to help create a more inclusive and accessible environment.

Be it further resolved, that the following question is asked during the Winter 2023 referendum:

"Student Support is a for-profit social enterprise that works with a diverse range of web-based service partners specializing in the education, career, and well-being spaces to enhance the student experience offered at universities and colleges across Canada.

Student Support Canada is proposing that all part-time and full-time undergraduate students pay an opt-outable Student Support Fee of 10.29 per semester. If this motion is passed, students would receive semesterly subscriptions for Calm, Udemy, and ProWritingAid, starting in Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2024 (inclusive). Do you agree?"

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

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.

Results of the Vote	In favour	(6)
	Opposed	(11)
	Abstain	(2)