



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AEUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

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MOTION REGARDING SAFETY SERVICES FEE INCREASE REFERENDUM QUESTION 2023-10-26

Submitted for: 2023-10-26

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2023-10-26-005
Moved by:	Nadia Dakdouki <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:	Aishwarya Rajan <i>Arts Representative to SSMU</i>		

Issue

The McGill Student Emergency Response Team (MSERT) is seeking an increase in their service fee by \$1.36 per student per semester.

MSERT's student fee is currently within the SSMU Safety Network Fee, which funds the following services: \$0.60 for Drive Safe, \$2.18 for MSERT, \$1.75 for SACOMSS, and \$0.12 for Walk Safe. This increase would increase MSERT's fee to \$3.54 per student per semester.

Background and Rationale

MSERT is a student-run volunteer service made up of 80+ dedicated volunteers that are certified First Responders and Emergency Medical Responders under the Canadian Red Cross. We carry a wide range of first aid equipment, including automated external defibrillators, oxygen tanks, cervical collars, and Epi-Pens. We respond to all McGill residences (except Solin Hall) everyday from 18h00 to 6h00, as well as respond to special campus activities like Frosh events, Science Games, etc. Our mission is to provide a free and accessible first aid service to McGill University and the greater Montreal community. Additionally, as an official training partner of the Canadian Red Cross, we aim to disseminate first aid knowledge and skills to the student body, by offering first aid courses and certifications.



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This increase to the SSMU Safety Network Fee would allow MSERT to continue to provide standard and emergency first aid courses for free to all SSMU members, and would allow them to meet the increased need for first aid equipment to sustain their day-to-day operations, and improvements to MSERT services.

Previously, an MoU and a fee increase in Winter 2023 allowed MSERT to provide free first aid courses, however this MoU ends in December 2023 with no possibility of renewal. Thus, MSERT must now increase our budget to be able to fully and independently fund free first aid courses.

With inflationary pressures, increased costs of medical equipment, and increased demand for our services, the financial cost of MSERT's daily fundamental operations has risen. This increase would allow us to keep our operations running effectively for the student body.

Lastly, MSERT strives to constantly improve the standard of care provided to students. MSERT's training manikins and trauma-simulation equipment is in desperate need of modernization. Units are no longer functional and our current supplies do not allow for our responders to be fully trained for the emergencies the McGill student population relies on MSERT for. Thus, this increase would allow for better training equipment, and higher quality suicide prevention trainings, which will result in higher quality first-aid care for the student body.

Alignment with Mission

MSERT aims to sustainably provide free courses for SSMU members to be first aid trained, thus creating a safer campus and community for all, as is the motivation behind SSMU's function. This is in-line with MSERT's mandate to provide first aid courses to the student body (MSERT Constitution 2.1c). This motion also aligns with SSMU's mission "by improving the quality and accessibility of education" and "providing outstanding services" to McGill undergraduate students.

Consultations Completed

This question has been discussed with and reviewed by the MSERT Executive Team who helped identify MSERT's needs. The SSMU Vice-President (Student Life) reviewed the budget and motion. VP Operations and Sustainability acting on behalf of the currently vacant position of SSMU Vice-President (Finance) reviewed our motion and budget.



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The SSMU Service Finance Coordinator reviewed our proposed budget and motion and provided guidance on writing, budgeting, and information to include in Appendix A. The SSMU Policy & Advocacy Coordinator also consulted on the format/structure and writing of this motion.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

If this motion does not pass, MSERT would be unable to offer free first aid courses to SSMU members due to budget constraints. The current long waitlists for MSERT courses reflect the desire and growing need for courses. First aid courses in English are incredibly difficult to find in Montreal and are often very expensive and far from campus (One English SFA course ranges from \$98.00 at Montreal YMCA to \$149.00 at Dawson College).

Additionally, if this motion does not pass, MSERT will be unable to fully fund crucial portions of daily operations including, but not limited to, providing responder meals on shifts longer than 5 hours, and MSERT will be unable to update training equipment or provide higher quality suicide prevention trainings. This would result in responders being responsible for their own food needs as a part of their volunteer duties and increased difficulty in adequately training MSERT responders.

Although this increase may add financial strain on students, it will be offset by the benefit of accessible free First Aid Courses (often needed for professional programs or employment) as well as by the increased quality of first aid service provided to students.

Sustainability Considerations

This fee increase would ensure that MSERT would be able to continue to provide the invaluable resource of free first aid courses and operational services remain accessible to more SSMU members despite the conclusion of the MoU and inflationary pressures.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If this motion is approved by the Legislative Council, the question included in Appendix A would be included in the Fall 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 Winter 2024 semester. This fee increase will allow MSERT to continue providing free First Aid courses, fully fund daily operations,



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update training equipment, and run higher quality suicide trainings, resulting in higher quality first-aid care for the student body.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Fall 2023 referendum period:

Do you agree to the increase of the SSMU Safety Network Fee of \$4.65 per semester to \$6.01 per semester (excluding summer) for full time members, starting in Winter 2024 and ending in Winter 2029 (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, resulting in the elimination of Free First Aid courses organized by MSERT, as well as limitations in the quality of services MSERT can provide?

Results of the Vote

In favour ()
Opposed ()
Abstain ()



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Appendix A : Referendum Question

Do you agree to the increase of the SSMU Safety Network Fee of \$4.65 per semester to \$6.01 per semester (excluding summer) for full time members, starting in Winter 2024 and ending in Winter 2029 (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, resulting in the elimination of Free First Aid courses organized by MSERT, as well as limitations in the quality of services MSERT can provide?

Appendix B: Budget Information

See PDF below.

- † Appendix B: Simplified Winter 2024 Budget
- † Appendix B: MSERT Courses Budget Breakdown
- † Appendix B: MSERT Referendum: 2022-2023 Actuals
- † Appendix B: Tentative MSERT Budget 2024-2025