



## Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

### Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

[ssmu.ca](http://ssmu.ca) | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

# SSMU LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL QUESTIONS

October 26, 2023

## Question from a Constituent

*"I am a Co-Captain of McGill Robotics, an EUS Design Team. I am here to ask about a change made to the funding guidebook in August as it greatly impacts our team as well as every Design Team at the EUS.*

*I believe this change failed to consider the needs of our teams and that it could lead to a total collapse in our ability to exist as a club. On August 21st, the SSMU Funding Handbook was updated such that "No more than 5% of any fund, or \$5,000 (whichever is higher) can go to one group or organization in a year" (Section 1.7). This is a big change from the previous year's handbook which stated that "No more than 15% of any fund can go to one group or organization in a year" (Section 1.7).*

*McGill Robotics goes to three competitions in a year, one for each of our robots. We send dozens of our members to represent McGill in Drumheller, San Diego, and Maryland. Moreover, McGill Robotics hosts a yearly hackathon called RoboHacks which last year had +150 participants and more than a dozen private companies from all over the city attend. In order to pay for flights, hotels, rental cars, etc. through the Ambassador Fund for our competitions and the classroom bookings, food, materials, etc. through the Community Engagement Fund for RoboHacks we need to know that the SSMU will be willing to fund us. Not via the nerve racking process of waiting for an exception, but by guaranteeing in the rules that our funds will be met (after the required due diligence from the Funding Committee of course).*

*So I'd like to ask the following questions and ask that you answer them to the best of your abilities today and return in two weeks at the next meeting with the answer of any question that eludes you in this moment:*

- 1. Why was the SSMU Funding Handbook 2023-2024 updated to limit grants to \$5000 or 5% of a grant's total funds per club?*
- 2. What reason was given in particular for reducing the percentage of a grant per team from 15% to 5%?*
- 3. What is the process by which the SSMU Funding Handbook 2023-2024 is updated in a given year?*
- 4. What is the consultation process for updating the yearly SSMU Funding Handbook?*



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5. *Given that we only heard about this change two days before this legislative meeting, do you believe the consultation process (if there is one) for the yearly update of the SSMU Funding Handbook is democratic?*
6. *Given that the rule in question stipulates a cap of 5% of a given fund per club, it is imperative that we know how much money is in each fund. So how much is it?*
7. *Do you understand that limiting the funding of clubs around the university puts an arbitrary cap on our capacity and ambitions, forcing us to scale down critical and important endeavors? In other words: Why is the size of a club not taken into consideration when determining the allocation of the funds?"*