



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM

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 FIRST YEAR FEE CREATION QUESTION 2024-02-15

Submitted for: 2024-02-01

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2024-02-01-003

Moved by: Jon Barlas
VP Internal Affairs **Current Status:**

Seconded by: Rajan Duncan
First Year Council Representative

- FOR APPROVAL
- APPROVED
- POSTPONED
- COMMITTED
- NOT APPROVED

Issue

The SSMU First Year Council (FYC) is a body of the SSMU mandated to manage the first year affairs by providing services to first year undergraduate students. The \$0.50 SSMU First Year Council Fee has expired as of Winter 2023, having barely failed to renew in the Fall 2023 referendum, and is therefore being presented for a creation vote in the Winter 2024 semester referendum period.

Background and Rationale

The First Year Fee was created for the SSMU First Year Council to be able to create social events, hold first year forums, collaborate with all first year student groups, and represent first year students at the SSMU Legislative Council.

Alignment with Mission

The First Year Fund will be allocated to empower first year students and first year representative groups of all faculties to engage in initiatives that foster leadership, encourage student engagement, and make positive changes in the representation or experiences of first year students.



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Consultations Completed

Consultations with the First Year Affairs Commissioner (FYAC), First Year Council, Governance Manager, Vice-President (Internal), and Vice-President (Finance) regarding the fee creation were done.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should a majority vote “No”, this would result in the absence of such a fund, which would hinder the future and existence of FYC. Since the fee was not renewed last semester, there has already been a drastic reduction in the events held by the FYC.

The financial burden on students is an additional \$0.50 per semester but it should be noted that it is opt-outable. The financial burden is significantly less than the amount of support the increased revenue would enable for first-year students.

Sustainability Considerations

Recreating the First Year Fee contributes to the long-term sustainability of the SSMU and its engagement with younger membership. It is essential to provide continuous support to new members as they come and work towards the inclusion of an easily neglected group.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should the fee referendum question be accepted by the Legislative Council, the fee question will go to referendum for the Winter 2024 period. The First Year Council oversees its own funding.

A “yes” vote will ensure the long-term sustainability of the First Year Council and representation of first year students by allowing the student body to vote on the creation of the fee.

A “no” vote will result in a drastic reduction in the representation and event planning capabilities of the First Year Council.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Whereas, first year students are an integral yet overlooked part of the McGill student population,

Whereas, working with younger membership increases the long-term sustainability of the SSMU,

Be it resolved, that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2024 referendum period:



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“Do you agree to the creation of the opt-outable \$0.50 SSMU First Year Council (FYC) Fee, which will be paid for by all SSMU members for the purpose of supporting the FYC who represent, organize events, and do giveaways for, but not limited to, first year students, to start in Fall 2024, and to be charged for a duration of 5 years until Fall 2029 (inclusive), once per semester, excluding summers, with the understanding that a "no" vote will result in a drastic reduction in the representation and event planning capabilities of the First Year Council?”

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.

Be it further resolved, that the Legislative Council recommend the ratification of this referendum question to the SSMU Board of Directors and a final edit and review for legal considerations.

Be it lastly resolved, that the final wording of the question be sent to Elections SSMU.

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 2024-2025 Budget

FYAC Salary based on 200 hours per year at the new minimum wage rate of \$15.75/hr.

Item	Percent of Fund (% , rounded)	Estimated Amount (\$, rounded)
FYAC Salary	17.5	3150
Events	45	7500
Supplies	10	2000
Giveaways	17.5	3000
Contingency and rollover	10	2000
Total	100	17650

Appendix B: 2022-2023 Budget

The budget from last year is as follows. The events held are flexible and depend on the council of that academic year and what they decide to do. As McGill is expecting a drop in student enrollment due to Quebec policy changes and its impacts and rising inflation, the expected student fees for the 2024-2025 year are slightly lower.

First Year Council Budget (2022-2023)		
Overview	Estimated	Actual
Executive Quarter Zips	\$1,000	\$450
Athletic Mixer at Gerts	\$1,000	\$750
Therapy Dogs	\$1,000	\$600
Gift Card Giveaway	\$5,000	\$6,000



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Club Night at Cave	\$5,000	\$3,000
Merchandise Giveaway	\$5,000	\$5,000
FYAC Salary	\$3,050	
Total:	\$21,050	\$15,800
Student Fees:	\$19,480	

APPROVED