



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

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MOTION REGARDING THE CREATION OF THE STUDENT RIGHTS FEE AND FUND 2024-02-15

Submitted for: 2024-02-15

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2024-02-15-008
Moved by:	Amina Kudrati-Plummer <i>VP Finance</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:	Keith Andre Baybayon <i>Arts Councillor</i>		

Issue

The proposed creation of the Student Rights Fee would support SSMU Student Rights staff and create a fund for students to apply to.

Background and Rationale

The SSMU has an obligation to ensure that its members are aware of and informed of their rights and abilities. Without this fee, the ability to hire a Student Rights Commissioner and Student Rights Researchers is not guaranteed, especially given the SSMU's current operational deficit.

This fee has been separated from the SSMU Membership Fee to ensure that the positions and mandates outlined in Appendix A are guaranteed regardless of operational deficits, as well as to provide support to students who are planning events and initiatives that center on student rights.

Alignment with Mission

This motion would ensure the SSMU is able to meet its mandate to represent students and their rights. It would also follow the SSMU's mission to provide exemplary services by expanding the SSMU's ability to educate on and address Student Rights concerns.



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Consultations Completed

This motion was worked on and reviewed by both the SSMU VP Finance and VP University Affairs.

The Policy and Advocacy Coordinator was consulted to ensure the motion and its referendum question are in line with SSMU writing standards.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The proposed fee increase could pose a financial burden to students. However, given it is both opt-outable and relatively small, at only \$0.25/semester, this should have minimal financial impacts on students, especially compared to the benefits of other services on campus.

Sustainability Considerations

Separating the Student Rights Researcher & Advocacy Commissioner and the Special Researcher positions into a fee independent of the SSMU Membership Fee ensures that these positions will be maintained regardless of the state of the rest of SSMU operations, while also not putting additional strain on existing operations. Additionally, the fee will help reduce socioeconomic barriers experienced by groups wishing to promote student rights. Together, this ensures the financial sustainability of SSMU and its members.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should the motion not pass, the capacity of the SSMU to fulfill its mission to uphold and promote student rights will remain limited.

Should the motion pass, the SSMU's capacity to support student rights initiatives will increase given the additional funding. Furthermore, the Student Rights Researcher & Advocacy Commissioner will be directed to oversee use of the portion of the funds dedicated to Student Rights Initiatives, excluding portions that are designated to Special Researcher positions created by Legislative Council. These positions will continue to be supervised by the VP University Affairs.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

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

“Do you agree to the creation of the opt-outable SSMU Student Rights Fee and Fund of \$0.25 per student per semester (excluding the Summer



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semester), commencing in Fall 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 limitations for SSMU to provide resources, information, and funding for student rights?"

Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()

APPROVED



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Appendix A : Estimated Budget for the Student Rights Fee (2024-2025)

Fee Breakdown	Estimated Amount	Notes
Student Rights Researcher & Advocacy Commissioner (SRRAC)	\$7,000 (58%)	Estimated salary at \$17.50/hr, for 400 hrs (approx. 10 hrs/week). Exact salary to be determined with re-evaluation of the job description and requirements.
Student Rights, General	\$3,000 (25%)	To be used for general projects, initiatives, events, and campaigns.
Student Rights Fund	\$2,000 (17%)	<p>For distribution by the Funding Committee for student rights-related projects, events, etc. This fee would be restricted so that 5% of the total revenue each year (approx. \$600.00) goes to the Student Rights Fund. All applications to this fund would require approval of the SRRAC.</p> <p>This fund can also be used for ad-hoc Special Researcher positions mandated by the Legislative Council (e.g., the Special Researcher (Academic Wellness) that was created in 2022), as long as the positions do not use more than 50% of the allocated amount.</p>

Total required annually: \$12,000

Total students who do not opt-out (estimate): 24,000

Fee per student per semester: \$0.25



Appendix B : Terms of Reference for the Student Rights Fee (IRs of Finance, IR-06 (Fees))

1. Student Rights Fee

1.1. Purpose of Society Portion

The Student Rights Fee is intended to support the Society's student rights-related initiatives, such as informational campaigns on student rights, as well as paying for student staff to coordinate such initiatives.

1.2. Purpose of the Funding Portion

The Student Rights Fee is also intended as a source of financial assistance to empower student rights-related initiatives run by student groups or individual students. When assessing Student Rights Fee requests, the Funding Committee must be satisfied that the initiative's objectives will contribute to the promotion of student rights awareness and improve awareness of student rights on or off campus.

1.3. Name

The portion of the Student Rights Fee for distribution by the Funding Committee shall also be known as the "Student Rights Fund" to reflect its role in providing funding for student rights-based initiatives.

1.4. Allocation for Society Portion

The Student Rights Researcher & Advocacy Commissioner must decide, in conjunction with the Vice-President (Finance) and the Vice-President (University Affairs), and before the October Revised Operating Budget, how much of the Student Rights Fee the Student Rights Researcher & Advocacy Commissioner will require for their own projects and initiatives throughout the year. The Vice-President (Finance) will include this information in the October Budget Revision

1.5. Allocation by Funding Committee

- 1.5.1. The remainder of the Student Rights Fee shall be allocated by the Funding Committee for student-run initiatives which align with the above-stated purpose of the fee. The Vice-President (Finance) must ensure that a minimum of 10% of the total revenues from the Student Rights Fee is reserved for distribution through the Funding Committee for student-run projects and initiatives. Neither the Student Rights Researcher & Advocacy Commissioner



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nor the Vice-President (University Affairs) may apply to the portion of the Student Rights Fee that is meant for allocation by the Funding Committee.

- 1.5.2. The portion of the fund allocated to the Funding Committee can also be used for ad-hoc Special Researcher positions mandated by the Legislative Council, as long as the positions do not use more than 50% of the total allocated amount.

1.6. Student Rights Seat

The Student Rights Researcher & Advocacy Commissioner will sit on the Funding Committee as a voting member only for the Student Rights Fee applications. This person sits on the Funding Committee to act as a consultant with a relevant background in student rights awareness and advocacy.

1.7. Funding Structure

Should the committee wish to make changes to the structure of the fund, the Committee Chair shall entertain a formal proposal by any voting member of the Funding Committee. Any changes that the committee wishes to make to the fund must be based on consensus before being brought for ratification at the Legislative Council.

APPROVED