



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.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

MOTION REGARDING THE INCREASE OF THE REFERRAL SERVICES FEE 2024-02-01

Submitted for: 2024-02-01

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2024-02-01-005
Moved by:	Amina Kudrati-Plummer <i>SSMU Vice-President (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:	Shadi Wehbe <i>EUS Representative</i>		

Issue

The Referral Services Fee requires an increase to support increased demand for referral services, specifically from the Union for Gender Empowerment.

Background and Rationale

The Union for Gender Empowerment (UGE) is a feminist and trans positive organization that strives to provide services to marginalized peoples in a safe(r) space. This includes an intersectional anti-oppressive mandate that centres anti-racism, anti-colonialism, anti-capitalism, anti-ableism, queer positivity, and harm reduction.

The UGE provides resources, educational opportunities, and a centre for advocacy to the McGill community and beyond. The UGE also provides students and community members with free/pay-what-you-can reusable menstrual products, gender affirming gear, and safer sex supplies in its resource co-operative, as well as an alternative library that is free for anyone to access. The UGE currently receives \$0.75 from the Referral Services Fee of \$6.03. A complete breakdown of the current fee structure is available in Appendix A.

The current fee allocation for the Union for Gender Empowerment was made before 2020, notably pre-COVID.

The Union for Gender Empowerment has been constrained by increased prices for all of its supplies that it offers at the co-op, as well as the rising



Bureau du président du conseil de l'ÂÉUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

cost of labour required to staff the union. The UGE is projected to run a deficit despite currently operating with half the number of paid staff than usual. Secondly, there has been increased demand for free reusable menstrual products and gender affirming gear as students face the rising cost of living. In addition, the cost of outreach events has risen due to increased food prices and increased demand for public transportation tickets as an accessibility measure, which now well exceeds what was observed before Winter 2020.

As the current fee is not enough to keep the union well staffed as well as the co-op well stocked, additional funding is required to continue expanding these services to meet growing student demands.

Alignment with Mission

This motion is presented in accordance with the SSMU's constitutional mandate to support student groups of the McGill community and provide services to strengthen the educational, cultural, environmental, political, and social conditions of its Members. The proposed increase to the Referral Services Fee would allow the Union for Gender Empowerment to continue to provide excellence and quality of service at all times, and to enhance the quality and scope of these services, in further alignment with the SSMU's constitutional mandate.

Consultations Completed

This motion is the product of consultations between the UGE executive body, and the SSMU Vice-President (Finance), Vice-President (Student Life), Services Finance Coordinator, and Policy and Advocacy Coordinator.

The Fee amount presented was calculated based on budgetary calculations made by the UGE Finance Coordinator.

The SSMU Vice-President (Finance), Vice-President (Student Life), and Service Finance Coordinator were consulted for procedural information on writing and presenting a motion to the Legislative Council. The Policy and Advocacy Coordinator was consulted in the motion-writing process and provided feedback to ensure the motion is in line with SSMU standards.



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AEUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should the proposed increase of the Referral Services Fee pass, students will pay an additional \$1.25 per semester. This fee increase comes at a difficult time for students in the midst of upcoming tuition hikes and the increase in the cost of living. However, should the proposed increase of the Referral Services Fee fail to pass, the UGE will have no choice but to reduce spending on its resources co-operative and activities, preventing the full provision of services to students. The UGE is driven by its mandate to provide its services for free or on a by-donation basis to serve low-income students who otherwise cannot afford to access gender-affirming materials, safer sex supplies, and reusable menstrual products. As the UGE's co-operative is already limited in stock, a reduction in spending would prevent students from accessing vital resources.

Sustainability Considerations

The Union for Gender Empowerment aligns with the SSMU's mandates to promote a strong, safe, and empowering community, to minimize socioeconomic barriers, and to be of service to communities, student groups, and initiatives that address social sustainability, as outlined in the Sustainability Policy. Additionally, the UGE provides reusable menstrual products on a free/by-donation basis to all students and community members to reduce waste and promote environmental sustainability on campus.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion be approved by the Legislative Council, the question included in Appendix A will be included in the referendum for Winter 2024. If the referendum question passes, the fee increase will be allocated as described in Appendix B and will go into effect as of the Fall 2024 semester.

The \$1.25 increase to the UGE's allocation would yield approximately \$40,000-50,000 in additional revenue. This amount was calculated to close an existing \$49,228.30 gap in the projected budget of the UGE. This would grant the long term financial stability needed for continued operation of the service, while enabling the service to keep up with the rising cost of goods. This increase would enable the UGE to operate with no compromise on service for the students.

Should the referendum question fail to pass, the UGE will be forced to reduce its operations and services to students, and continue to operate with reduced staff. This endangers the existence of the UGE, as the organization relies on its paid staff to manage the co-operative, coordinate volunteers, and manage its finances and administration. Additionally, the



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AEUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

tuition hikes next year could result in lower enrolment and a smaller undergraduate student body, and consequently the existing operating budget of the UGE would be significantly reduced.

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 an increase of the opt-outable Referral Services Fee of \$6.03 per semester by an additional \$1.25 for full time members per semester (excluding the Summer semester), commencing in Fall 2024 and ending in Winter 2028 (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 a continuation of the fee at its current rate, impacting the Union for Gender Empowerment’s ability to provide services in alignment with its mandates?”

Be it further resolved, that the Legislative Council adopts the actionable aspects of this question with the understanding that any necessary non-substantive changes will not require the approval of the Legislative Council.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(19)
Opposed	(1)
Abstain	(2)



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AEUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

Appendix A: Breakdown of Current Referral Service Fee Structure

Referral Service	Updated	Fee Allocation
Eating Disorder Resource & Support Centre	F21	\$2.06
Nightline	F21	\$1.15
Peer-Support Centre	F21	\$0.62
Queer McGill	W20	\$1.45
Union for Gender Empowerment	W20	\$0.75
	Total:	\$6.03

Appendix B: Breakdown of Referral Service Fee Increase

Referral Service	Previous	Revised
Eating Disorder Resource & Support Centre	\$2.06	\$2.06
Nightline	\$1.15	\$1.15
Peer-Support Centre	\$0.62	\$0.62
Queer McGill	\$1.45	\$1.45
Union for Gender Empowerment	\$0.75	\$2.00
	Total:	\$7.28



Appendix C: UGE budget proposal for 2024-2025, without fee increase

		Projected Budget for 2024-25	Notes
	Revenues		
4900	Student Fees	\$30,087.70	
4998	Previous Years Surplus (Deficit)	-\$6,932.77	
	Donations	\$0.00	
	Sub total:	\$23,154.93	
	Expenses		
1435	Computer Equipment	\$200.00	Replacement of computer peripherals
1440	Computer Software	\$120.00	Yearly fee for Libib library software, Image editing software
6100	Materials and Supplies	\$800.00	Brochures and publications from Montreal Sexual Health referral services, UGE Stickers, Pins, Art supplies (craft and sewing supplies for art workshop nights)
	Breast Forms	\$1,500.00	10 Breast forms at 150\$ per pair
	Transmasculine Packer	\$375.00	25 Packers at 15\$ per packer from Good For Her (supplier quote)
	Stand To Pee Device	\$625.00	25 STP at 25\$ per STP from FTM Pitstop (Supplier quote)
6111	Food & Beverages	\$2700.00	1 year of event catering (5 events/year at 500\$ catering per event) plus light hypoallergenic snacks at weekly reading circle events (see invoice for 35 person volunteer training event)
6120	Printing	\$235.00	UPrint for 1000 colour pages (UGE brochures to give out at activities nights)
6129	Birth Control and Hygiene	\$1,000.00	Condoms in a range of sizes and materials, Dental Dams, Pregnancy Tests, Nitrile gloves, Lubricant
	Menstrual Underwear	\$9,500.00	300 Pairs of Aisle Menstrual Underwear in a range of sizes and styles including SSMU institutional



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.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

			discount, see document
	Reusable Menstrual Pads	\$1,800.00	100 Menstrual Pads from Aisle including SSMU institutional discount
	Menstrual Cups	\$2465.00	75 Menstrual Cups from Aisle including SSMU institutional discount
6130	Postage and Courier	\$500.00	
6133	Clothing	\$1,000.00	Transfeminine Shapewear, Transmasculine Shapewear, Maternity Clothing
	Specialty Bras	\$1,000.00	Compression Bras, Bras with inserts, Mastectomy Bras, Breastfeeding Bras
	Chest Binders	\$3,300.00	100 Chest binders from GC2B at 33\$ per binder
	Transfeminine Underwear	\$2,250.00	150 pairs of underwear at 15 CAD per pair (see price quote from attached invoice)
	Transmasculine Underwear	\$3,858.50	150 pairs of underwear at 24.50 CAD per pair (see price quote from attached invoice)
6138	Photocopy	\$213.00	UPrint for 3000 BW pages for weekly reading circle events
6139	Office Supplies	\$500.00	Printer Paper, Stationery, Archiving Supplies, Bulbs, Cartridges, Batteries
6140	Books & Publications	\$1,500.00	Replace stolen and lost library books, update and expand library in accordance with mandate
6160	Memberships/Training	\$0.00	
6300	Travel & Car Allowances	\$1,820.00	1 year of 10 STM tickets as accessibility measure for weekly recurring plus larger yearly events
6305	Automobile Expense & Moving	\$300.00	1 year of occasional taxi rides to transport supplies and materials to events
6306	Conferences & Travel	\$0.00	
6320	Advertising & Promotion	\$500.00	UPrint for 1000 colour pages for Postering, Fb and Instagram ads for events
6340	Entertainment	\$0.00	
6361	Honorariums	\$1,500.00	Honoraria for event speakers and one-time services
6370	Rentals	\$1,000.00	Space rentals for events
6411	Donation (Discretionary Fund)	\$0.00	
6515	Furniture	\$200.00	
6610	Telephones	\$0.00	
6809	Benefits	\$2,281.55	
6812	Casual Salaries	\$28,519.40	7 Coordinators: Outreach (x2), Finance, Administrative/Staffing, Library, Co-op Resources, Events
6818	AUTO VAC	\$1,140.78	



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.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

6838	Q.P.P	\$0.00
6839	QPIP	\$0.00
6851	Medicare	\$0.00
6870	E.I.	\$0.00
6872	C.S.S.T.	\$0.00
	Sub total:	\$72,383.23
	Total:	-\$49,228.30

Appendix D: UGE Budget 2023-2024, Expenses without fee increase

		Budget (V1) for 2023-2024	Year To Date (YTD)	Remaining amount
	Revenues			
4900	Student Fees	\$30,087.70	\$15,043.85	\$15,043.85
4998	Previous Years Surplus	\$0.00	-\$8,185.23	\$8,185.23
	Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Sub total:	\$30,087.70	\$6,858.62	\$23,229.08
	Expenses			
6100	Materials and Supplies	\$3,000.00	\$5,182.21	-\$2,182.21
6111	Food & Beverages	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
6120	Printing	\$150.00	\$1,322.22	-\$1,172.22
6129	Birth Control and Hygiene	\$1,000.00	\$306.50	\$693.50
6130	Postage and Courier	\$200.00		\$200.00
6133	Clothing	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
6138	Photocopy	\$0.00		\$0.00
6139	Office Supplies	\$150.00		\$150.00



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.

speaker@ssmu.ca | ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

6140	Books & Publications	\$1,000.00	\$693.00	\$307.00
6160	Memberships/Training	\$400.00		\$400.00
6306	Conferences & Travel	\$100.00	\$69.34	\$30.66
6320	Advertising & Promotion	\$200.00		\$200.00
6340	Entertainment	\$100.00		\$100.00
6361	Honorariums	\$700.00		\$700.00
6370	Rentals	\$500.00		\$500.00
6411	Donation (Discretionary Fund)	\$0.00		\$0.00
6420	Bank and Service Charges	\$30.00		
6500	Equipment	\$500.00		
6505	Computer Software/Expenses	\$100.00	\$87.65	
6515	Furniture	\$200.00		\$200.00
6610	Telephones	\$0.00		\$0.00
6809	Benefits	\$1,920.00	\$570.82	\$1,349.18
6810	Salaries	\$0.00		
6812	Casual Salaries	\$24,000.00	\$5,345.82	\$18,654.18
6814	Other Salaries and Accruals	\$1,000.00	\$213.83	
6818	AUTO VAC	\$960.00		\$960.00
6838	Q.P.P	\$0.00		\$0.00
6839	QPIP	\$0.00		\$0.00
6851	Medicare	\$0.00		\$0.00
6870	E.I.	\$0.00		\$0.00
6872	C.S.S.T.	\$0.00		\$0.00
	Sub total:	\$38,210.00	\$13,791.39	\$24,418.61
	Total:	-\$8,122.30	-\$6,932.77	