



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.

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MOTION REGARDING THE INCREASE OF THE STUDENT ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES FEE 2024-02-15

Submitted for: 2024-02-15

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2024-02-15-004
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:	Natan Sakajiri <i>ArtSci Representative</i>		

Issue The Student Academic Support Services Fee requires an increase of \$0.67 to continue to support the MiniCourses program and the Open Education Resource Staff.

Background and Rationale MiniCourses is a program that provides members affordable extracurricular courses and workshops for experiential learning beyond the traditional classroom setting. Since the fee's creation in 2019, the fee has remained at an opt-outable \$0.93 and in the past 2 years the program has been running at a deficit. This deficit is further exacerbated by the funding of the Open Educational Resources (OER) service and the staff that are supported by this fee. Without an increase, this will result in a substantial increase in course registration costs as well as limit the staff and work completed by OER staff to make accessible course materials available to students.

Alignment with Mission This motion is in line with the SSMU's mission to improve the quality and accessibility of education and provide outstanding services.



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Consultations Completed

The SSMU VP Finance and VP Operations and Sustainability worked on and reviewed this motion with support from the Student Life Operations Director and the MiniCourses Coordinator.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

In the passing of this motion, there is the slight risk of financial strain on students. However, the enrichment provided by MiniCourses and an alternative to on-the-rise textbook prices greatly outweigh this strain.

Sustainability Considerations

This motion is in line with the SSMU's aims of social and financial sustainability. The support services the fee supports provide financially accessible alternatives to the resources currently available by the University and the Montreal community.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion be approved and the question passes at referendum, the fee increase will go in effect as of Fall 2024. This will allow the SSMU to maintain the affordable MiniCourse prices as well as continue to work with professors in providing openly-licensed educational materials as alternatives to expensive textbooks and coursepacks.

Should it not be approved or the fee increase does not pass at referendum, the MiniCourses program will have to significantly increase the cost of registration for courses offered and reduce the variety of courses available. The Open Education Resources staff will lack the funding needed to support their roles and there will be little research in finding alternative course material options for thousands of students.

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 increase of \$0.67, from \$0.93 to a total of \$1.50, to the opt-outable SSMU Student Academic Support Services Fee, per semester (excluding summers), payable by all full-time and part-time SSMU members, to start in Fall 2024 and to be charged until Winter 2029 (inclusive), with the understanding that a majority 'no' vote would result in increased MiniCourses registration costs and limited free Open Educational Resources?



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Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()

APPROVED



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Appendix A : Calculations

[Motion Regarding Creation of SSMU Student Academic Support Services and Fee Levy 2019-10-10](#)

APPROVED



Appendix B : Minicourses Department Budget

Note: anything in brackets indicates a profit, anything not in brackets is a deficit

Name of AC	2023-2024 Budget	2024-2025 Budget	Comments/ Reasoning
Student Fees	(36,603.35)	(40,000.00)	Based on 2022-23 Actuals
Registration Fees / Admissions	(18,000.00)	(10,000.00)	Course Revenue: ~4K per semester (approx. 16 classes for the year @ \$65-\$80/course)
Food & Beverages - N/S	30.00	50.00	\$50/full time employee for birthdays
Advertising & Promotion	500.04	400.00	Facebook/ Student Newspaper Ad/ Stickers
Bank and service charges	600.00	500.00	PayPal Service Charge estimate
Contract Services	20,000.04	12,000.00	Instructor fees, approx \$6000/semester
Benefits	4,759.80	4,759.80	Minicourses Coord Benefits
Salaries	43,270.56	43,270.56	Minicourses Coord Salary
Bonus/Commission	249.96	250.00	Minicourses Coord
Vacation accrued	2,163.00	2,163.00	Minicourses Coord
RRSP - employer contribution	1,298.04	1,298.04	Minicourses Coord
Casual Salaries	n/a	11,000	Open Education Resource Coords
	16,271.52	24,691.40	



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Deficit: \$24,691.40

Estimated number of students who do not opt-out: $36,603.35 / (1 * 2) = 18,301.675$

Fee Increase Needed Annually: $\$24,691.40 / 18,301.675 = \1.34

Fee Increase Needed per Semester: \$0.67

APPROVED