



## 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 RENEWAL OF THE LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT FUND FEE 2024-02-15

Submitted for: 2024-02-15

<b>Submitted to:</b>	SSMU Legislative Council	<b>Document no.:</b>	LEG-PUB-MOT-2024-02-15-006
<b>Moved by:</b>	Amina Kudrati-Plummer <i>VP Finance</i>	<b>Current Status:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
<b>Seconded by:</b>	Rajan Duncan <i>First Year Council Representative</i>		

## Issue

The Library Improvement Fund Fee, established in 1996, is up for renewal after last being renewed in Winter 2019. Upon approval, this document will enable a fee renewal question to be included in the referendum to allow the students continued benefits as stated below.

## Background and Rationale

The Library Improvement Fund Fee provides 24-hour library access during the final exam season, student staffing positions, gender neutral washrooms in the Schulich Library, portable phone and laptop charging stations, and furniture in the libraries, as well as improving the physical appearances of several libraries.

The exact uses of the fee differ each year, as students are able to submit project proposals that will use the Library Improvement Fund. Previous projects have included adding charging stations to the Schulich and Redpath libraries, adding 3D printers, and expanding seating in the libraries.

The Library Improvement Fund Fee is up for renewal this semester, and without it, the Libraries would not be able to be open 24/7 during exam periods, and fewer student staff positions would be available. Other smaller improvement projects would also not be viable.

The amount collected by the fee is matched by McGill Alumni donors.



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### Alignment with Mission

The Library Improvement Fund ensures the McGill libraries are maintained and improved to best be used by students. This provides additional resources to students, both in terms of the resources the library provides as well as study and work spaces. The maintenance, improvement and provision of resources is in line with the SSMU's mission to provide exemplary services to the student body.

### Consultations Completed

The SSMU VP Finance and VP University Affairs were both consulted in the creation of this motion. The Library Improvement Commissioner was not consulted as it was not possible to get in contact with them. The Policy and Advocacy Coordinator was consulted for formatting and motion writing advice.

### Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The proposed fee for renewal is fairly large, at \$8.50 per semester, which can be a significant financial burden to students, especially given increases in the cost of living and impending tuition hikes.

However, this fee goes towards ensuring libraries are as accessible as possible to all students and community members, and providing free alternative working spaces. Additionally, this fee is opt-outable, and therefore students concerned about financial strain can opt out.

### Sustainability Considerations

This motion serves to promote the use of McGill Libraries among students, as well as ensure they are usable environments. The libraries provide some of the only working spaces on campus, promoting campus engagement overall, which will ensure the holistic sustainability of campus life.

### Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If this motion is not approved by the Legislative Council, certain library services will not be provided going forward, specifically library improvements and 24-hour access during the exam period, and other library support may diminish with the reduced number of student staff.

If this motion is approved by Legislative Council, McGill Libraries will continue to be improved and accessible for 24-hours during the exam period, and student staff positions will continue to be filled.



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If this motion is approved by the Legislative Council, Appendix A shall be included as a referendum question in the Winter 2024 Referendum.

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### 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 that the opt-outable \$8.50 for full time students and \$4.25 for part time students per semester SSMU Library Improvement Fund Fee, which is paid for by all SSMU members and contributes to the SSMU Library Improvement Fund, accessible to all SSMU members who do not opt out of the fee, be renewed to start in Fall 2024 until Winter 2029 (inclusive), with the understanding that a majority “no” vote would result in the non-existence of the fee?”*

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### Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()



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# Appendix A: Details on Past Spending

The reports from 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 are not available at this time.

[2020-2021 Library Improvement Fund Report](#)

[2019-2020 Library Improvement Fund Report](#)

### Common Spending

1. ~\$200,000 for Student Staff
2. ~\$200,000 for 24/7 access during the exam period

APPROVED