



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 KEEP.MESAFE FEE 2024-02-15

Submitted for: 2024-02-15

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2024-02-15-007
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:	Shadi Wehbe <i>Engineering Representative</i>		

Issue

The fee for the mental health counseling service keep.meSAFE is up for renewal. keep.meSAFE provides unlimited 24/7/365 access to licensed counselors.

Background and Rationale

Countless academic studies have demonstrated that students are more likely to experience mental health distress than the general population. Access to mental health services within McGill University and within the City of Montreal can be restrictive for SSMU Members for various reasons including financial, physical, or administrative barriers. In 2019, SSMU, PGSS, and MCSS all approached McGill University with the goal of providing universal access to each of the society's Members.

keep.meSAFE, the top platform identified, is a mental health counseling service provided by Morneau Shepell that gives McGill University students access to hundreds of licensed counselors located for in-person counseling with minimal wait times, and 24/7/365 immediate unlimited access to licensed counselors through telephone and secure clinical mobile chat. keep.meSAFE is able to provide a diverse network of counselors where students' unique circumstances can be matched with a counselor who understands these experiences (such as international, graduate, veterans, newly landed immigrants, LGBTQ2+, Indigenous, cultural minority, marginalized individuals, athletics, disabilities, and more experiences).



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keep.meSAFE provides telehealth services in English, French, Spanish, Mandarin, and Cantonese.

In addition to the accessibility, immediacy and interactive nature of this program, which provide necessary access to mental health resources for all students currently studying at McGill, directors and stakeholders of the keep.meSAFE program maintain a consistent, communicative and collaborative relationship with SSMU, particular those in the Mental Health Committee that allow for increased interaction and outreach with students. Should this fee not be renewed, these resources and opportunities will no longer be available to students.

Alignment with Mission

The SSMU is committed to offering necessary and urgent support to its members who require mental health resources. The [SSMU Mental Health Policy](#) also outlines these needs and our commitment for expanding access to mental healthcare.

Consultations Completed

The SSMU VP Finance, VP Student Life and Mental Health Commissioner worked on and reviewed this motion.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The proposed fee will pay for the on-going services of keep.meSAFE. Without this fee, this service will not be offered, impacting the ability of members to access mental health care.

While this fee is not large, it is non-opt-outable, and therefore may pose a financial burden to some students. However, this fee also ensures that students who have limited financial resources are still able to access mental health support that they may otherwise not have access to.

Sustainability Considerations

Renewing the keep.meSAFE Fee contributes to the long-term sustainability of the SSMU and its engagement with younger membership. It is essential to provide continuous mental health support to all students.



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Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion be approved, the services offered by keep.meSAFE will continue to be available and consultations and appointments will be accessible to all McGill students.

Should this motion not be approved, the services offered by keep.meSAFE will cease to be provided as of Fall 2024.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the SSMU Legislative Council approves the following question for the Winter 2020 Referendum period:

Do you agree to the renewal of the non-opt-outable SSMU keep.meSAFE fee at \$2.75 per student per semester (excluding summers), payable by all SSMU members, starting Fall 2024 until Winter 2029 (inclusive) to access the keep.meSAFE 24/7/365 mental health services, with an understanding that a majority “no” vote would result in the termination of the keep.meSAFE mental health counselling services for all students at McGill University?

Be it 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.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()