



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 CHANGES TO THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF FINANCES (BLACK EQUITY FUND GUIDELINES) 2023-04-06

Submitted for: 2023-04-06

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2023-04-06-004
Moved by:	Val Masny <i>Vice-President (External Affairs)</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:	Nadia Dakdouki <i>Clubs Representatives</i>		

Issue

Through this motion, the Black Affairs Commissioner is calling upon the implementation of a Black Equity Fund following a successful Black Affairs Fee Levy¹. Through this fund, students, clubs, and other groups advocating for Black related-affairs, will be able to get access to funding for various projects and/or urgent financial needs. The approval of funding will be decided by the Black Affairs Committee who is set to meet on a monthly basis.

Background and Rationale

The Black Equity Fund is a source of financial assistance for projects, research, events, and policies that aim to end anti-black racism and promote diversity and inclusivity in the McGill community. These initiatives may foster leadership, encourage civic engagement, or make observable differences in the representation or experiences of individuals who identify as Black as well as groups working towards ending anti-black racism.

¹<https://ssmu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Motion-Regarding-Referendum-Question-on-the-Creation-of-a-Black-Affairs-Fee-Levy-2022-02-17-APPROVED.pdf?x21981>



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Alignment with Mission

This motion is aligned with the SSMU's commitment to groups, programs, and activities that are devoted to the well-being of a group disadvantaged because of irrelevant personal characteristics, as per the Leadership pillar of the Constitution, in the preamble.

This motion further aligns with SSMU's mandate to promote a functional, anti-oppressive environment through, as defined by Article 1 – Interpretation of the Equity Policy, and all of subsections thereof.

Finally, this motion aligns with SSMU's commitment to (point 6) Equity and Social Sustainability as per the Society's Positions Book. Specifically, 6.1 "that the SSMU has a responsibility as a leader, representative, and service provider to conduct itself by the highest standards of respect, fairness, integrity, safety, and equitable treatment for all persons"; and 6.2 "That historical and ongoing processes of oppression disadvantage and harm certain groups of people"; 6.3 "That the practice of equity requires the dedication of material support to reduce intersectional barriers for marginalized groups who may benefit from targeted resources."

Consultations Completed

Consultations were completed with Vice-President (External Affairs), the Vice-President (Finance) and the Black Affairs Committee members (Black Affairs Commissioner, SSMU Black Affairs Committee, Black Students' Network, McGill African Students Society, Black Law Students' Association of McGill, and Black Varsity Association).

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

If this motion does not pass, it would be incredibly difficult for the Black Affairs Commissioner and committee to operate efficiently and it would severely limit the SSMU's capacity to support Black students on campus. The work to support Black students that SSMU has begun would be entirely unsustainable.

Sustainability Considerations

The proposed amendments serve to increase the social sustainability of SSMU's practices and promote a strong, safe and empowering community by minimizing systemic power imbalances within society and fostering a culture of anti-oppression, as outlined in section 3.2 of the Sustainability Policy.



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Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion pass, the Black Equity fund would be in effect for the academic year of 2023-2024 to help fund initiatives and support Black students.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved, that the Legislative Council approve the Amendment to the Internal Regulation of Finance presented in Appendix A

Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()

APPROVED



Appendix A : Amendment to the Internal Regulations of Finances

18. BLACK EQUITY FEE

Description/Purpose:

The Black Equity Fee shall serve to fund the following: 25% of the fee should be allocated to the Black Equity Fund , up to 50% of the fee shall pay for the Black Affairs Commissioner, the Black Affairs Coordinator and other relevant positions, and the remaining percentage shall be used to fund the activities of the SSMU Black Affairs Committee.

The **Black Equity Fund** is a source of financial assistance for projects, research, events, and policies that aim to end anti-black racism and promote diversity and inclusivity in the McGill community. These initiatives may foster leadership, encourage civic engagement, or make observable differences in the representation or experiences of individuals who identify as Black as well as groups working towards ending anti-black racism. The fund may also be used to support Black students in urgent financial needs. Applicants may apply for up to 1,500\$ per application for costs such as hydro, internet, groceries, rent, etc.

The Budget of the Black Affairs Committee shall include a budget for the Black Affairs Annual Awards, the Black Affairs Newsletter, a Black Affairs economic impact budget, for supporting and building relationships between the SSMU and Black owned businesses through an annual Marketplace event, a Black Affairs community budget for supporting and building relationships with community charities/ not for profit organizations serving POC by supporting the current BSN and MASS non-profit fair, and a Black Affairs education budget for any community outreach concerned with access to education.

Name:

The fund shall be known as the Black Equity fund due to its connection with the Black Affairs levy as well as to the Black Affairs Committee.



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Funding Allocation:

To ensure adequate usage of the fund, every application will be assessed by the Black Affairs Committee members and decisions will be made through a vote. If a committee member is applying for funding, they will not be able to assess and vote on their own application. If the Committee wishes to change the allocation defined in the purpose of the Fee, the Black Affairs Commissioner shall entertain a formal proposal by any voting member of the Black Affairs Committee by no later than November. Following the presentation of that proposal, the committee shall make a decision through a vote.

APPROVED