



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AEUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

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MOTION REGARDING FACULTY OLYMPICS FUNDING 2023-05-11

Submitted for: 2023-05-11

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2023-05-11-007
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:	Benson Wan <i>Medicine Representative</i>		

Issue

With a significant deficit resulting from this year's Faculty Olympics, primarily due to the exceptional situation of a last minute venue cancellation, lower than expected registration and miscalculation of expenses we are motioning to have the First Year Fund contribute to offset the deficit. This is due both to the increased work made to include First Year Students in the events of the week and the social nature of these events that took place near and on campus.

Background and Rationale

The Faculty Olympics is a 5-day event fostering social interactions between students across various faculties. Teams of 50 compete in games and demonstrations of team spirit to win the Faculty Cup, presented to the team at the end of the week with the highest number of points.

This year was the first time in over 3 years that the Faculty Olympics was able to conduct a full week of events. While committee members of the Students' Society Programming Network (SSPN) worked hard to revitalize energy and knowledge on the event, numbers were still limited. Yet, the ticket price was kept comparatively low to make the event more accessible. With the addition of increased prices compared to previous years, the exceptional canceling of a venue last minute and some miscalculation of expenses Faculty Olympics has ended up with a significant deficit.



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The Faculty Olympics took dedicated effort to engage first year students to get them more involved in the events of Faculty Olympics. This included a collaboration with the SSMU First Year Council for outreach and advertising and the hosting of information sessions for “First-time Faco-ers” hosted by SSPN committee members to increase communication about the events of Faculty Olympics and how to get involved for new members of the McGill community.

Alignment with Mission

Given that part of the SSMU’s mission is to promote social opportunity, Faculty Olympics acts as a comparatively financially accessible social week event hosted on campus (compared to Science Games hosted by SUS or Hype Week and Carnival hosted by MUS). The SSMU’s Faculty Olympics gives opportunity to all McGill Faculties large and small to come together, work as a team and celebrate. Coming out of over 2 years of regulations and restrictions that limited in-person social opportunity, Faculty Olympics acts as a mechanism to re-engage upper year students with university social life and integrate first year students into the social groups of their faculties and traditions of the McGill student body more broadly.

Consultations Completed

Consultations have been conducted with the Executive Committee, including the Vice President Finance and President, which aided in the determination that this motion should be brought to the Legislative Council after initial presentation at the SSMU Funding Committee.

The Accessibility Coordinator who functioned as an advisor to the SSPN during the planning and execution of the Faculty Olympics has also been consulted for their perspective on the deficit.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Making a decision in favor of this motion does allot a significant expenditure contained within the First Year Fee budget towards one 5-day event, with participation of 619 students over 5 days. Furthermore, the night events for the Faculty Olympics events are hosted in club spaces, with the accompaniment of alcohol being at times provided and also bought by participants. While these drinking events of a social nature are a risk, there is the consideration that the cost of any alcohol provided to attendees is offset by ticket prices supplied by student participants. Cheaper non-drinking tickets are also sold to any interested students/staffers. Furthermore, this is planned to be an exceptional supplement to offset the deficit of the Faculty Olympics of this year and as per the SSMU’s Internal



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Regulations of Finance funding during one academic year does not guarantee funding for the next. To assure that a deficit of this magnitude is not accrued again, amendments are being made to the SSPN terms of reference along with considerations for emergency protocols in the case of a last minute venue cancellation. Yet, it should also be considered that without funding being utilized from the First Year Fund this large expenditure would have a significant impact on the SSMU's overall operating budget.

The approval of the entire amount would leave the First year fund with an approximate total of 10,000\$. It should be considered that the first-year fee levy was not put forward at referendum and therefore, no fee will be collected in the Fall 2023. It would be possible for a question to be submitted to the fall referendum which could result in a fee collection starting in the winter 2024 semester.

Sustainability Considerations

The SSPN has an inclusivity coordinator who works to assure that minimal single use plastic is used during events and that sustainable product partners are used for all necessary committee equipment and transport.

There are no foreseeable impacts that motioning to approve this motion would have on the SSMU's sustainability efforts.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If the proposed resolution is approved the First year Fund will be used to partially cover the deficit of the SSMU's Faculty Olympics 2023. This will exclude the funding of any item that fits exclusionary standards for funding put forward in the SSMU's Internal Regulations of Finance, including the funding of alcohol. The supplying of these funds will be facilitated by the Funding Commissioner in conjunction with the VP Finance and SSMU Comptroller.

Any deficit still in place following the funding of all accepted areas of financing, would be evaluated by the Board of Directors.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approves the use of the First Year Fund (\$20,177.52) to offset the deficit of the SSMU's 2023 Faculty Olympics per the documentation in Appendix A.



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Be it further resolved that the remaining deficit be expunged by fundraising efforts of SSPN according to a multi-year plan made by the VP Internal and approved or amended by SSPN at its first meeting.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(6)
Opposed	(5)
Abstain	(5)

APPROVED



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Appendix A : Relevant documentation for the Application

Application

Groups Mandate:

The Students' Society Programming Network (SSPN) shall serve as the principal advisory committee for the Vice-President (Internal Affairs) on the organization and execution of all Society events.

Description of Event:

The Faculty Olympics is a 5 day competition event that puts teams of 50 representing each faculty up against each other in a competition of athletics, knowledge and engagement. This event is run by a committee of 17 members of the Students' Society Programming Network (SSPN) chaired by the SSMU VP Internal.

This event was hosted from March 7th to March 11th and had approximately 619 participants over the 5 day period.

Across these 5 days are multiple competition and social events, facilitating faculty relations and intra-faculty bonding, all conducted around and near campus.

This event is an opportunity for participants to embody faculty pride, work together to win the Faculty Cup and celebrate a sense of togetherness across faculties.

This year was the first time in over 3 years that the Faculty Olympics was able to conduct a full week of events. While committee members of the Students' Society Programming Network (SSPN) worked hard to revitalize energy and knowledge on the event, numbers were still limited. Yet, ticket sales were kept comparatively low to make the event accessible. With the addition of increased prices compared to previous years, the exceptional canceling of a venue last minute and some miscalculation of expenses, Faculty Olympics has ended up with a significant deficit.

In this case, funding will be used for venue bookings, transport, photographers, videographers, and food and equipment rentals. Most events of the 5-day period involve drinking alcohol. This is funded by participants through ticket prices.

Events within these 5 days include:

Tuesday March 7th



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Opening Ceremonies: an event hosted at Foufounes Electronic in which each faculty does a presentation introducing their team captains and showing their energy. This usually entails a dance, song or spoken word piece often accompanied by props or costumes.

Wednesday March 8th

Team Olympics: An event hosted at Complexe Sky, faculty teams compete in a tiered competition against each other in various ball and cup games, beer, non-alcoholic or gluten free beverages provided.

Thursday March 9th

Capture the Flag: Teams receive their logos printed on a large flag and play against other teams in a capture the flag event hosted in the Tomlinson Fieldhouse. Teams are provided with foam blocks to make forts for their flag to be kept and small flags around their waist to be taken from the other team when in enemy territory.

Boat Races:

Teams choose 10 representatives to compete against other teams facing them to see what team can one after the other drink the fastest down the line and back. Teams get to choose a walk out song before taking their spots and being given the opportunity to chug with beer, gluten free beverages or soda water.

Friday March 10th

SSMU Day:

During SSMU day, hosted mostly on campus or very nearby, teams compete in a new set of games. The first, being hosted in Gerts includes limbo, a knowledge test on McGill and theme trivia called the MCAT and a case crack, in which teams are given a puzzle to solve and must present their answers. The Spelling bee is hosted at the Tippy Cow bar.

Power Hour:

During the Power Hour event team captains are given a certain allocation of beer, gluten-free beverage, and juice to share with their team over an hour period with the addition of a live DJ, dancing, and celebration between teammates.

Saturday March 11th

Mountain Run:

Teams compete to run up Mont Royal with 5 stops on the way in which they have to participate in tasks and games as a team. The shortest time from the beginning of the stairs behind the



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Upper Residences to the Cross at the top of the mountain wins!

Wing Kegger:

Hosted at Hooters, teams get served a lunch of chicken wings, veggie burgers and fries along with competition debates, in which representatives of teams must compete in a debate on funny topics and win by applause and scores of committee member judges, the semi finals and finals of limbo and pong cup, a variation on beer pong in which competitors sip their own drink, be it beer, water or gluten free beverage.

Ultimate Pre:

For the Ultimate Pre-Party, teams host their own event and committee members go between the different events to be shown which team has the most spirit and energy. Some teams prepare tasks for the committee members, games or do a show or dance of some variety.


Closing:


Following the Ultimate Pre, participants go back to Fougoues for a closing celebration, thanks are given, special awards for participation, spirit and hype are awarded and the winner is announced!

Event Accessibility Information:

The SSMU Accessibility Commissioner was consulted multiple times in the planning and execution of these events. Harm reduction resources were present throughout the week and participants were communicated with regarding accessibility information (flashing lights, gender neutral bathrooms, loud noise, stairs/accessibility concerns at venues) along with the contact information of the Accessibility Coordinator in the guidebook created for the event and given to all participants.

Budgets

Faculty Olympic week:  Funding Application- FACO budget

Faculty Olympic department budget:  Faculty Olympics-5085