



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 A FEE INCREASE FOR MUSICIANS' COLLECTIVE REFERENDUM QUESTION

Submitted for: 2025-02-18

Submitted to: SSMU Board of Directors **Document no.:** BOD-PUB-MOT-2025-02-18-002

Moved by: *Hamza Abu Alkhair*
Director of Clubs and Services

Current Status:

- FOR APPROVAL
- APPROVED
- POSTPONED
- COMMITTED
- NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: *Rajan Duncan*
Board of Directors
Member-at-Large

Issue

The current fee levy that covers the cost of operations of the Musicians Collective is not sustainable for future years. The Musicians Collective would like to increase the Student fee from \$0.10 to \$0.40

Background and Rationale

The Musicians Collective is a SSMU service that provides free practice space and performance opportunities for McGill students, regardless of faculty. In the 2024-25 school year, we supported over 150 students with practice spaces and hosted events for over 400 attendees.

To better serve students, The Musicians Collective has undertaken several initiatives to expand our operations and improve accessibility:

- **Extended Jam Room hours:** Now open from 9-5, Monday to Friday, with space access, instrument repairs, and regular cleaning provided by Musicians Collective executives.
- **Increased Event Frequency:** The Musicians Collective hosts 2-3 events per month, including Jam Nights, Open Mics, and on/off-campus shows featuring student bands.
- **Expanded Outreach for Student Musicians:** Collaborating with external promoters and venues has allowed the Musicians Collective to expand the outreach of student bands beyond the McGill campus.



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- **Upgraded Instruments and Sound Equipment:** Purchased new guitars, a drum kit, new amps, and a PA system, enhancing sound quality at events and providing quality instruments for practice room users. Our equipment is also available for loan to other SSMU services, such as MUSA and Gerts Bar.

To maintain and expand these initiatives, we require an increase in our operating budget.

Moreover, the uncertainty surrounding **SB18**, our current practice and storage space, poses a significant risk to the service. McGill has announced that it will go through with its construction plans for the space in the coming years. This construction would jeopardize both our equipment's security and the continuity of our service. While SSMU has committed to advocating for a replacement space in the 2024-25 Space Agreement, there is no guarantee that an adequate alternative will be secured on campus. If this construction proceeds, we will lose a core component of our service.

With additional funding, the Musicians Collective will:

- **Secure an off-campus practice space:** We will establish agreements with external practice venues, manage scheduling, and cover costs for student bands.
- **Expand equipment rental services:** Additional funding will allow us to purchase more instruments, enabling students to rent instruments for free and practice at home, further increasing accessibility.

Alignment with Mission

The Musicians Collective provides an equitable and accessible way for McGill students, regardless of faculty, to play, perform, and support music on campus. We are able to provide a free service for students that enriches campus life and artistic output. In pursuit of accessibility, providing free practice space and equipment rentals will help promote the use of our service, regardless of McGill's construction plans.

Consultations Completed

The Co-Presidents of the Musicians Collective have met with the Service Representative, Director of Clubs & Services and Space Coordinator regarding the fee increase. The Service Rep determined upon review of the Musician Collective's budget that a fee increase was necessary to expand operations and ensure the continuation of the service.



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VP Finance Approves

Policy & Advocacy Coordinator Approves

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The fee levy increase will cause the SSMU service fee to increase. However, this total increase does not represent a significant risk factor for students, for this fee is opt-outable and students can choose whether to pay an additional \$0.30 per student, per semester.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

The approval of this motion would allow the Musicians Collective to continue serving the students of the McGill community to its fullest capacity, as well as expand its service offerings for years to come.

Should this motion be rejected, the Musicians Collective will be put at high risk of having our operations dismantled and may lose a key aspect of our service's offerings if McGill is to go through with its proposed parking lot construction plan.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2025 Referendum Period ballot:

Do you agree to the increase of the opt-outable SSMU Musicians Collective Fee from \$0.10 per student per semester to \$0.40 per student per semester beginning in Fall 2025 and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the membership for renewal, with the understanding that a majority "no" vote will not allow the Musicians Collective to expand their operations at the current fee collected?

Be it further 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.

Be it resolved that, the Legislative Council approves and recommends the ratification to the Board of Directors.



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Results of the Vote	In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
	Opposed	()
	Abstain	()

APPROVED



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Appendix A: Current Budget

2024-25 Operating Budget:

NOTE: Please put each relevant piece of documentation (i.e., referendum question, policy, job description, budgets, visual aids such as graphs or images, etc.) in a separate Appendix.

General Category	Specific Entry	Actual Revenues	Projected Revenues	Actual Expenses
Bank Balance	Opening Balance	3,041.53	3041.00	
	Closing Balance			
	Student Fees	4,000.00	4,000.00	
	Subtotal	\$7,041.53	\$7,041.00	\$0.00
Event Expense	Food for Barfly Show			34.29
	Transport #1 for Barfly Show			28.55
	Transport #2 for Barfly Show			22.77
	Food for Ursa Show			123.73
	Food for Open Mic			79.58
	Subtotal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$288.92
General Meetings	Year End Team Dinner			403.36
	Subtotal			403.36
Instruments & Equipment	Instrument Purchase #1			201.6
	Instrument Purchase #2			2176.45
	Subtotal			\$2,378.05
Lease	Venue renting			0
	Subtotal	0	0	0
	Total	\$7,041.53	\$7,041.00	\$3,070.33
			Total Revenues	\$7,041.53
			Total Expenses	\$3,070.33
			Surplus(deficit)	3,971.20

Link to budget:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MVd2zTvjGn_FUTvDBabt6SEtakRYdeDsApFgwUQg4DA/edit?usp=sharing



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Appendix B: Proposed Fee Increase Budget (NO SB-18)

General Category	Specific Entry	Projected Revenues	Projected Expenses	Comments
Bank Balance	Opening Balance	3041.00		
	Closing Balance		3000.00	Maintain a higher balance for future years
	Student Fees	16,000.00		Projected student fees with fee increase
	Subtotal	\$19,041.00	\$3,000.00	
Event Expense	Total Event Expense		\$ 1,000.00	Shows and External events
	Subtotal		\$1,000.00	
General Meetings	Meeting Expenses for Year		\$ 500.00	Team meetings and internal events
	Subtotal		0.00	
Instruments & Equipment	Instrument Purchase/Maintenance		\$2,500.00	Replace lost/missing/broken equipment
	Subtotal		0.00	
Lease	Space Rental		12,000.00	Rent for future jam room space
	Subtotal	0	12,000.00	
	Total	\$19,041.00	\$16,000.00	
		Total Revenues	19,041.00	<i>Note: All receipts from expenses will be sent to SSMU.</i>
		Total Expenses	16,000.00	
		Surplus(deficit)	3,041.00	
			Projected	Leftover Funds

Link to Budget:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MVD2zTvJGn_FUTvDBabt6SEtakRYdeDsApFgwUQq4DA/edit?usp=sharing

Appendix C: Potential Rental Spaces

Studio 365: <http://www.studio-365.ca/>

Solo Drum Studio: <https://www.solodrum.com/>

Marsonic: <https://marsonic.com/en/rehearsal-studios/>