



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

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MOTION REGARDING THE INCREASE OF THE REFERRAL SERVICES FEE

Submitted for: 2025-02-18

Submitted to: SSMU Board of Directors **Document no.:** BOD-PUB-MOT-2025-02-18-001

Moved by: *Hamza Abu Alkhair*
Director of Clubs and Services **Current Status:** FOR APPROVAL

Seconded by: *Seraphina Crema Black*
Council Member APPROVED
 POSTPONED
 COMMITTED
 NOT APPROVED

Issue The Referral Services Fee requires an increase to support the operations of the Union for Gender Empowerment.

Background and Rationale The Union for Gender Empowerment (UGE) is a feminist and trans positive organization that strives to provide services to marginalized peoples in a safe(r) space. This includes an intersectional anti-oppressive mandate that centres anti-racism, anti-colonialism, anti-capitalism, anti-ableism, queer positivity, and harm reduction.

The UGE provides resources and educational opportunities, and acts as a centre for advocacy to the McGill community and beyond. The UGE also provides students and community members with free reusable menstrual products, gender affirming gear, and safer sex supplies in its resource co-operative, as well as an alternative library that is free for anyone to access. The UGE currently receives \$0.75 from the Referral Services Fee of \$6.03.

The current fee allocation for the Union for Gender Empowerment was made before 2020, notably pre-COVID.

The Union for Gender Empowerment has been constrained by increased prices for all of its supplies that it offers at the co-op, as well as the rising cost of labour required to staff the union. Secondly, there has been



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increased demand for free reusable menstrual products and gender affirming gear as students face the rising cost of living. The SSMU Menstrual Health Project was formed partially to address this need, but there are students with needs beyond what the Project fulfills: the UGE provides more variety in product style and distributes products constantly, not only once a month. The UGE has been providing menstrual products to students for decades.

In addition, the cost of outreach events has risen due to increased food prices and increased demand for public transportation tickets as an accessibility measure, which now well exceeds what was observed before Winter 2020.

The UGE has been forced to reduce its staff of coordinators and insufficiently stock its co-operative due to these financial constraints. Further, the UGE has been unable to invest resources into the maintenance of its library.

As the current fee is not enough to keep the union well staffed, its co-op well stocked, and its operations supported, additional funding is required to offer these services to meet growing student demands.

Alignment with Mission

This motion is presented in accordance with the SSMU's constitutional mandate to support student groups of the McGill community and provide services to strengthen the educational, cultural, environmental, political, and social conditions of its Members. This motion is also in line with the SSMU's commitments to support the UGE under the Equity Policy and the Trans Advocacy Plan. The proposed increase to the Referral Services Fee would allow the Union for Gender Empowerment to continue to provide excellence and quality of service at all times, and to enhance the quality and scope of these services, in further alignment with the SSMU's mandate.

Consultations Completed

This motion is the product of consultations between the Union for Gender Empowerment, the SSMU Vice-President (Finance), the Director of Clubs and Services, and the Policy & Advocacy Coordinator.

The Fee amount presented was calculated based on budgetary calculations made by the UGE in consultation with the Vice-President (Finance). The Policy & Advocacy Coordinator provided opinions regarding the editing of this motion.



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I have read and completed the requirements outlined in the Consultation Policy.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should the proposed increase of the Referral Services Fee fail to pass, the UGE will have no choice but to continue funding its services in a manner insufficient for their full provision to members. As the UGE's co-operative is already limited in stock, this would in particular prevent students from accessing vital resources.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion and the subsequent referendum question be adopted, the revised Referral Service Fee allocation would be as follows:

Referral Service	Previous	Revised
Eating Disorder Resource & Support Centre	\$2.06	\$2.06
Nightline	\$1.15	\$1.15
Peer-Support Centre	\$0.62	\$0.62
Queer McGill	\$1.45	\$1.45
Union for Gender Empowerment	\$0.75	\$2.00
Total:	\$6.03	\$7.28

The \$1.25 increase to the UGE's allocation would yield approximately \$45,000 in additional revenue. This would grant the long term financial stability needed for continued operation of the service, while enabling the service to keep up with the rising cost of goods. This increase would enable the UGE to operate with no compromise on service for the students.

A complete current UGE budget is available in Appendix A and a projected UGE budget should the fee increase pass is available in Appendix B.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved, that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2025 referendum period, titled "Referral Services Fee Increase (Union for Gender Empowerment)":



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Whereas, the Union for Gender Empowerment (UGE) is a SSMU Referral Service that provides free menstrual and gender-affirming products,

Whereas, the price of menstrual and gender-affirming products has increased steeply since the UGE fee was last increased in Winter 2020, before the COVID pandemic,

*Do you agree to the increase of the **opt-outable** SSMU Referral Services Fee from \$6.03 per student per semester to \$7.28 per student per semester beginning in Fall 2025 until 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 result in the UGE being unable to meet the demands of the student body, particularly in the provision of menstrual and gender-affirming products?*

Be it further resolved, that the Legislative Council adopts the actionable aspects of this question with the understanding that any necessary non-substantive changes will not require the approval of the Legislative Council.

Results of the Vote

<input type="checkbox"/>	In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Opposed	()
<input type="checkbox"/>	Abstain	()



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Appendix A: 2024-2025 UGE Budget

Revenues				
Account	Description	Revenue	Subrevenue	Notes
4900	Student Fees	\$27,500.00		~18.33k fee paying students based on current data
4998	Previous years balance	-\$1,072.43		
Revenues Subtotal		\$26,427.57		

Expenses				
Account	Description	Expense	Subexpense	Notes
6100	Materials & Supplies	\$1,000.00		
	Gender-Affirming Supplies		\$900.00	trans tape order
	Misc. Supplies		\$100.00	
6101	Cleaning Supplies	\$100.00		office cleaning
6103	Kitchen Supplies	\$50.00		
6111	Food & Beverages - N/S	\$1,200.00		
	Event Catering		\$1,000.00	
	Office Snacks		\$200.00	
6120	Printing	\$150.00		
6129	Birth Control & Hygiene	\$5,050.00		
	Safer Sex Supplies		\$200.00	condom restock
	Period Underwear		\$4,000.00	~120 pairs at ~\$20 for hipsters and ~\$40 for other
	Menstrual Cups		\$600.00	15 at \$40
	Custom Orders		\$250.00	
6130	Postage & Courier	\$150.00		shipping co-op orders
6133	Clothing	\$4,750.00		
	Chest Binders		\$3,000.00	~60 at ~\$50



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	Transfeminine Underwear		\$1,500.00	~45 at ~\$35
	Custom Orders		\$250.00	
6139	Office Supplies	\$100.00		
6140	Books & Publications	\$1,000.00		for the UGE library
6300	Travel & Car Allowances	\$150.00		
6361	Honorariums	\$1,000.00		event facilitation
6420	Bank and service charges	\$100.00		
6505	Computer Software / Expenses	\$275.00		library catalogue
6809	Benefits	\$1,122.80		
6812	Casual salaries	\$11,028.73		3 contracts of 200 hours
6814	Vacation accrued	\$491.98		
6818	Vacation paid each pay	\$60.00		
Expenses Subtotal		\$27,778.51		
Total Deficit		\$1,350.94		



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Appendix B: Projected UGE 2025-2026 Budget With Fee Increase

Revenues				
Account	Description	Revenue	Subrevenue	Notes
4900	Student Fees	\$73,333.33		~18.33k fee paying students based on current data
Revenues Subtotal		\$73,333.33		

Expenses				
Account	Description	Expense	Subexpense	Notes
1425	Furniture & Fixtures	\$200.00		office & co-op furniture
1435	Computer Equipment	\$200.00		computer value depreciation / replacement cost
6100	Materials & Supplies	\$4,250.00		
	Trans Tape		\$500.00	20 rolls at ~\$25 each
	Breast Forms		\$1,500.00	10 pairs at ~\$150 each
	Transmasculine Packers		\$500.00	25 at ~\$20 each
	Stand-to-Pee Devices		\$750.00	25 at ~\$30 each
	Custom Orders		\$250.00	requests for non-clothing gender-affirming products we do not stock
	Art Supplies		\$250.00	craft & sewing supplies for art workshop events
	Stickers & Pins		\$400.00	
	Other Supplies		\$100.00	
6101	Cleaning Supplies	\$100.00		office cleaning
6103	Kitchen Supplies	\$100.00		
6111	Food & Beverages - N/S	\$2,250.00		



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	Event Catering		\$2,000.00	8 events at ~\$250 each
	Office Snacks		\$250.00	
6120	Printing	\$500.00		posters, flyers, zines
6129	Birth Control & Hygiene	\$14,500.00		
	Safer Sex Supplies		\$250.00	condoms, lube, dental dams
	Period Underwear		\$10,000.00	~300 pairs, price varies by style
	Menstrual Cups		\$2,000.00	50 at ~40
	Reusable Menstrual Pads		\$2,000.00	~100 pads
	Custom Orders		\$250.00	requests for menstrual and safe sex products we do not stock
6130	Postage & Courier	\$500.00		shipping co-op orders (on request)
6133	Clothing	\$9,625.00		
	Chest Binders		\$5,000.00	100 at ~\$50
	Transfeminine Underwear		\$2,625.00	75 at ~\$35
	Transmasculine Underwear		\$1,500.00	50 at ~\$30
	Custom Orders		\$500.00	bras, requests for gender-affirming clothing we do not stock
6139	Office Supplies	\$200.00		
6140	Books & Publications	\$2,000.00		
	UGE Library		\$1,500.00	replacing lost/stolen books, expanding our offerings
	Distribution		\$500.00	materials from other groups we refer to
6300	Travel & Car Allowances	\$300.00		
			\$200.00	~50 STM tickets/year for event accessibility
			\$100.00	taxi rides as needed
6305	Automobile Expense / Moving	\$200.00		transportation of materials to events



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6361	Honorariums	\$1,500.00		event speakers and one-time services
6411	Donations	\$2,500.00		discretionary fund to support community activism & research
6420	Bank and service charges	\$100.00		
6505	Computer Software / Expenses	\$400.00		library catalogue, computer peripherals
6809	Benefits	\$3,051.20		
6812	Casual salaries	\$28,875.00		6 coordinator contracts of 275 hours at \$17.50/hr
6814	Vacation accrued	\$1,530.61		
6818	Vacation paid each pay	\$201.87		
Expenses Subtotal		\$72,683.68		
Total Surplus		\$649.65		

APPROVED