



Bureau du président du conseil de l'ÂÉUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

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MOTION REGARDING THE CREATION OF THE SSMU FOOD PANTRY, AMENDMENT TO THE SSMU FOOD SECURITY POLICY, AND AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF FINANCE

2025-04-03

Submitted for: 2025-04-03

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2025-04-03-001

Moved by: Hugo-Victor Solomon
Vice President External Affairs

**Current
Status:**

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

Seconded by: Janashee Punjabi
Environment Representative

Issue

This motion outlines a detailed plan for the creation of an SSMU Food Pantry, which would provide students with regular access to nutritious food on campus, alleviate food insecurity among students, and reduce food waste. This motion includes amending the [2023 SSMU Food Security Policy](#) to reflect the current state of food security on campus, as well as restructuring the SSMU Grocery Program to divert funding to the Pantry in service of better realize the mission towards which the Grocery Program was oriented. This motion continues the past few years' work to address food insecurity amongst SSMU members, especially considering the current inflation of food costs and the rising cost of living that students face.



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Background and Rationale

The SSMU Food Pantry project aims to address food insecurity among McGill students by establishing a permanent, accessible food bank on campus. The initiative builds upon the previous years' [SSMU Grocery Program](#), which provided food baskets and vouchers to low-income students. However, the overwhelming demand—over 400 applicants for 100 available spots—highlighted the urgent need for a more sustainable, long-term solution.

While student-run food mutual aid programs do exist at SSMU and McGill, their capacity is limited by funding and student volunteerism. For example, the [Midnight Kitchen \(MK\) Service of the SSMU](#) can only serve a limited number of meals a few times a week. And yet, hundreds of hungry students frequently line up for MK lunch distributions, underlining the present need and interest for affordable, accessible, and sustainable alternatives on campus. Other subsidized or free grocery programs like the [Student Nutrition Accessibility Club \(SNAC\)](#) and the SSMU Grocery Program also report a substantial student demand that exceeds their supply.

Furthermore, in 2023, the Let's Eat, McGill campaign emerged from regular meetings on-campus food insecurity which included a broad range of student stakeholders and community members, including representatives from all the relevant student food groups, the SSMU and MCSS, and various sustainability-related initiatives in the community. This group's efforts culminated in the adoption of the [SSMU Food Security Policy](#) on 2023-03-09, which defines the SSMU's approach to the issue of food security, includes a detailed overview of the state of food insecurity amongst McGill students, and mandates action from the SSMU. This Food Pantry project falls directly within the mandates outlined in that policy.

Furthermore, feedback from one of the original founders of the Grocery Program, past SSMU Executives, as well as the current Grocery Program Coordinator has shown that the funding allocated to the program itself is not being used optimally and is unnecessarily onerous for a handful of individuals in a top-down model, rather than involving more community participation through the recruitment of student volunteers interested in participating. The Food Pantry Model not only serves the needs of students experiencing food insecurity but also diverts massive amounts of food waste on McGill Campus. By partnering with student residence cafeterias, Mealcare and other on-campus groups, this project will ensure food



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sustainability on campus by repurposing food that would otherwise be discarded.

So far, the pilot project initiated in the ECOLE space has demonstrated that there is a clear and pressing need for students to have access to food in an accessible manner, as shown through the fridge being emptied weekly since the creation of the project.

Alignment with Mission

This motion extends the [SSMU Grocery Program policy](#), which has been shown to align with the SSMU mission already, particularly the SSMU's commitment to holistic sustainability and leadership on matters of social justice and equity.

Furthermore, this policy directly aligns with the [2023 SSMU Food Security Policy](#), which mandates the SSMU to adopt a “framework of community-led services and activism when tackling the issue of food security” and notes the outside demand for food security initiatives among SSMU members.

Finally, this motion aligns with the [2023 SSMU Sustainability Policy](#), promoting social sustainability and equity through increased food access and fostering environmental sustainability through partnerships with local food producers and by decreasing food waste.

Consultations Completed

- Interim Deputy Provost Student Life and Learning (DPSLL) Angela Campbell
- Innovation Assistance
- Maxwell from Student Housing and Hospitality Services (SHHS)
- SSMU Comptroller
- Midnight Kitchen
- PGSS Finance
- Student Nutrition Accessibility Club (SNAC)
- SSMU Mealcare
- Gerts Cafe Manager
- Eleves des Champs (EDC)
- McGill Food Coalition
- Policy and Mobilization researcher
- Community Affairs Commissioner
- Community Engagement Commissioner
- Policy and Advocacy Coordinator
- Nathan from Milton Parc Citizens Committee



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- Grocery Program Coordinator
- Sustainability Commissioners 1 and 2
- Environment Representative

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The creation of a physical space providing free food will likely draw in large numbers of students, potentially posing safety risks and security concerns. These risks have been discussed in depth with representatives from SHHS (at a meeting on 2025-02-05), and the proposed spaces have been chosen in order to facilitate the safest possible environment. Furthermore, paid coordinators will be on-site for the duration of all opening hours to oversee the space and ensure safety (see Appendices A and C).

There are potential health risks of which come with providing food. These risks will be mitigated through the presence of paid coordinators to monitor food deliveries, upkeep, and student pick-up. Furthermore, a liability plan will be developed to protect SSMU in the case of any legal concerns.

Despite the remaining considerations for this project, the risk factors have been taken into account and will be addressed by the project team, including the VP External, External Affairs team, Sustainability Commissioners, paid coordinators, and liaisons from SHHS. Furthermore, it is clear that this project will contribute positively to SSMU's sustainability efforts.

Remaining Operational and Logistic Considerations:

- **Finalizing the Location** – Determining which space would be the most suitable long-term option through cooperation with representatives from SHHS, and the McGill Residential Services teams in addition to the Pilot project in the ECOLE lobby;
- **Formalizing Agreements** – Establishing an official rental or usage agreement with SHHS and ECOLE to ensure long-term sustainability;
- **Creation of a Part-Time Food Pantry Coordinator Role** – Hiring a pair of dedicated student coordinators to oversee daily operations and logistics;



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- **Food Storage & Distribution Logistics** – Developing a structured process for drop-offs, pickups, and inventory management with respect to donations and collaborations with community organizations and student groups;
- **Security & Liability** – Addressing any legal concerns related to food handling, student presence, and shared space use.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

The External Affairs team will make sure that a contract is secured with SHHS in partnership with the Community Engagement Commissioner.

This contract will be appended to this motion as Appendix G and ratified by the SSMU's governing bodies as soon as it is confirmed and signed, all while the existing pilot project for the food bank that is currently ongoing in the ECOLE lobby will be maintained and furthered as per Appendices A and F.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Vice President (External Affairs), the Community Engagement Commissioner, and the Food Pantry Coordinators are tasked with continuing and expanding the SSMU Food Pantry Project as outlined in Appendix A as outlined by the mod.

Be it further resolved that the amendments to the SSMU Food Security Policy as outlined in Appendix F are approved.

Be it further resolved, that this Policy will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years, from 2025-04-03, until 2030-04-03 (inclusive).

Be it further resolved that the amendments to the SSMU Internal Regulations of Finance, as outlined in Appendix B are approved.

Be it further resolved, that this Internal Regulation will remain in effect from 2025-04-03;

Be it further resolved, the SSMU Vice-President (Finance) shall change the name of the fee for the SSMU Grocery Program from 7045: SSMU Food Pantry Program to 7045: SSMU Food Pantry Program for internal finance



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and organizational purposes in line with the changes outlined in Appendix B.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(UNANIMOUS)
Opposed	()
Abstain	()

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Appendix A: Project Overview for the SSMU Food Pantry Project :

2025-03-13 | SSMU Food Pantry Project Proposal

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Appendix B: Changes to the IRs of Finance

22. SSMU Food Pantry Fee

22.1. Purpose

The SSMU Food Pantry Fee is intended to fund the operations, staffing, and other material and contractual expenses of the SSMU Food bank. This funding is intended to ensure that students of low-income backgrounds are able to access fresh and nutritious food options in an affordable pay-what-you-can model while ensuring accessibility through an on-campus location.

22.2. Allocation

- a. All funding will be supervised by the External Affairs Portfolio, namely the Vice President (External Affairs) in collaboration with the Community Engagement Commissioner and monitored by the Food Pantry Coordinator(s).
- b. The Food Pantry Coordinator(s), under the supervision of the Community Engagement Coordinator, shall be responsible for developing and maintaining a system for consultation to survey to guarantee student and student group's involvement in the allocation of Food Pantry resources and outreach initiatives.
 - i. This may consist of a survey distributed to Membership or plebiscite questions submitted via a SSMU Referendum.
- c. The Food Pantry Coordinator(s), with support from the Vice-President (External Affairs) shall be responsible for running a fee-renewal campaign when the current SSMU Food Pantry fee is expiring.

22.3. Allocation by Funding Committee

No portion of the SSMU Food Pantry Fee is allocated by the Funding Committee.

22.4. Staff Salaries

This fee must be used to cover the salary of the SSMU Food Pantry Commissioner. In the case that it is not possible to support the other required distributions and the SSMU Food Pantry Commissioner's salaries, the SSMU Food Pantry Commissioner will oversee a campaign to increase the fee.



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Appendix C: Updated Budget for Department 7045

DEPT_7045_SSMU_Food_Pantry_Expected Budget

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Appendix D: Approved and Pay Scored Job Description for SSMU Food Pantry Coordinator:

 **Food_Pantry_Coordinator_JD(D)_2025-02-03**

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Appendix E: Modifications to Job Description of Community Engagement Commissioner:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jw6TmyBUdEI6mbqSQcLJaoC_mfnrwl3xX7OFSqu_sds/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.tzdt1c7cosaz

^^ this is super outdated i'll just update the whole thing below is the link to the new one

https://docs.google.com/document/d/10_44pnKlFMc4SytXwKfz13Z50vfkxsOpOe01-KvO01E/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.tzdt1c7cosaz

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Appendix F: Modifications to the SSMU Food Security Policy:

☰ 2025-03-13 | DRAFT — Amendments to the SSMU Food Security Policy

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Appendix G: Contract with SHHS / MoA with ECOLE:

FORTHCOMING

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