

Motion Regarding Building Renovations for Room B-25 - 2025-03-25

Submitted for: 2025-06-10

Submitted to: SSMU Board of Directors

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Moved by: Hamza Abu Alkhair
VP Clubs & Services

**Current
Status:**

- ☐ FOR APPROVAL
- ☒ APPROVED
- ☐ POSTPONED
- ☐ COMMITTED
- ☐ NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Dymetri Taylor
President

Issue

There are spaces within the SSMU building that Services, Clubs, or ISGs can potentially use that require renovation. Room B-25 requires a heavy change/renovation consisting of electrical work, carpet change, painting, and heavy equipment removal. In particular, the renovations to B25 (see Appendix A) will give additional space to be used by the Student Television at McGill (TVM) and the Muslim Student Association (MSA).

Background and Rationale

The UC prayer room (B09) operated by the MSA does not meet appropriate requirements for Muslim students' daily prayers. The women's section only accommodates 8 women at a time. The men's section consistently overflows into the storage room (to the point that a prayer rug was added in the room to accommodate). Furthermore there is no room for chairs to accommodate for praying Muslims' accessibility needs. Currently, TVM's space (B28) is too small and is in urgent need of a space change to continue operations. Renovations of B25 will give TVM a better suited space for their needs, and allow MSA to move their prayer room to B28/B29 and align the space with prayer room guidelines, opening up the current prayer room (B09) as a bookable space/ new office space for a different service. SSMU can address this issue by approving an increase to the renovations quote for space B25, quoted by McGill to Wallace Sealy in appendix B. This

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approval will allow for renovations to be made to the relevant basement spaces and therefore relevant student services to continue operating in a more appropriate capacity.

After many conversations with the Building Director, we believe that optimizing the space we occupy is of the utmost importance. This space in particular is very large, and there have been many discussions with student groups regarding its potential use.

The cost of these renovations will be taken from the University Centre Building Reserve Fund, up to \$30,000, not from individual Service fees.

Alignment with Mission

The renovations will increase accessibility for Muslim students, greatly benefiting one of the SSMU's highly depended on and active Services. This is in line with the SSMU's value of providing exemplary service to its Members. Additionally, increasing accessibility of the space will further the organizational sustainability of SSMU.

Consultations Completed

Building Director -

- Quote discussion and breakdown with reasons (work that needs to get done)
 - Creating walls
 - Electrical and fibre optic
 - Lighting
 - Network
 - Mic systems
 - "That one room in the back."
 - Carpeting B25 & B29

- Agreed that University Center Building Reserve Fund is appropriate fund for operations
- Requests budget approval in order to initiate project with F.A.M.G. Construction Inc.
- (insert brief from BM)
- Carpet B25 and B29 at the same time, can move MSA into new space in phases
- Agrees with phases reflected in Appendix A

VP Finance -

- Verify whether McGill would contribute to this expense.
- If McGill will not be covering it, recommend: that the budget comes out of the University Center Building Reserve Fund

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- Recommend board approval of up to \$30,000 for renovations (if it can come from the building reserve fund)

President-

Dymetri

- To use building reserve fund requires board approval of this motion specifying the renovations will be funded by the UC building reserve fund

TVM:

- TVM's space has been limited given their exec team size, and overall use of their space has been minimal due to their projects needing larger space
- Studio and teach-ins would all be done in their space if they had a more suitable area
- Would provide a space for students to have a professional studio space for many different projects, videos, photos, and more

MSA:

- Current space has not been ideal due to 2 main factors being, overall capacity and noise/disruption from Gerts
- A bigger space would accommodate the overall community in a better manner where not only is there a separation for men and women, but also a bigger space to host their teach-ins called "Halaqas"
- Creates further expansion opportunity like a **potential wudu station**, or overall private area without noise and disruptions

Vice-President Clubs and Services:

- Good decision :)

Event coordinator (taylor): ask about booking:

- Removes a potential bookings space, but will also remove 2 groups from Needing large space, since their frequent bookings will be transferred to their larger space

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

- The cost is justified based on the estimate provided by F.A.M.G. Construction to the Building Director, with a modest contingency amount added to the budget to allow for flexibility and to accommodate necessary modifications to Rooms B28 and B29 to support their conversion into a designated prayer space
- B29 cannot be a bookable space however B09 (current prayer room) will soon open to replace functions of B29

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- TVM will continue operating in their current space until the new space is completed. MSA will remain in their current room and will gradually transition to Room B29, followed by B28 once it becomes available

Financial factors, reduced June budget for building reserve

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If approved, the Building Department will inform F.A.M.G construction, and will schedule operations during the summer.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the SSMU will initiate the process to complete renovations in the Basement of the University Centre as described in Appendix A.
Be it resolved that the approval of up to \$30,000 from the UC building reserve fund be allocated to F.A.M.G construction, per Appendix B quote.
Be it further resolved that it will be the responsibility of the Building Director, VP Clubs and Services, and President to oversee the continuation and eventual conclusion of this project.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(5)
Opposed	(0)
Abstain	(0)

Appendix A : Phases of Renovation

Phase 0 (Preliminary):

- a. Sign the MOA with McGill.

Phase 1:

- a. Receive approval via the Board of Directors for \$30,000 for the basement funded by University Centre Building Reserve Fund.
- b. Inform Building Director of budget approval.
- c. Building director will communicate with F.A.M.G construction and to get an exact quote and timeline for basement renovations.

Phase 2:

- a. Begin renovations to B25.
- b. Carpet B29 and B25 at the same time.
- c. Move MSA gradually into B29 while B25 renovations continue.
- d. Make necessary upgrades for new prayer spaces and to old prayer space

Phase 3:

- a. Once construction of B25 is complete, move TVM into the space.
- b. Move MSA completely into B28 and B29

Appendix B: Quote for Renovations

 **SSMU Quote 2 Soumission McGill .pdf**