

MOTION REGARDING REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE RENEWAL OF THE SSMU ACCESS BURSARY FUND FEE 2025-10-09

Submitted for: 2025-10-09

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council **Document no.:** LEG-PUB-MOT-2025-10-09-00X
(to be assigned by Steering)

Moved by: Dymetri Taylor
President **Current Status:** ☐ FOR APPROVAL
☒ ~~APPROVED~~
☐ POSTPONED
☐ COMMITTED
☐ NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Keith Baybayon
Senate Representative

Issue This motion seeks to initiate the process of renewing the SSMU Access Bursary Fund fee - an opt-outable Students' Society fee providing bursaries to SSMU members - which is up for renewal this semester.

Background and Rationale

Since its approval at referendum in 1999, the SSMU Access Bursary Fund has provided bursaries, administered through McGill's Scholarships and Student Aid Office, to undergraduate students in financial need. All funds collected by this fee are matched by the University, making this one of McGill's most significant bursary funds, with nearly 4,000 recipients of the bursary since its inception. In the 2024-25 academic year, 275 students received \$763K in need-based aid from this fund.

The Access Bursary Fund was last renewed in Winter 2020, and as such, is up for renewal this semester. This motion would initiate the process of renewal by approving a question to renew the fund in the Winter 2026 referendum.

Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM
SSMU Office of the Speaker

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.
Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

speaker@ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | ssmu.ca | 3501 rue Peel, Montréal, QC, H3A 1W7



Alignment with Mission	The SSMU Access Bursary Fund aligns with the SSMU's commitments to equity and social sustainability, as well as its specific commitments to accessible education as outlined in the Policy on Accessible Education and Academics.
Consultations Completed	This motion was drafted in consultation with the Executive Committee.
Risk Factors and Resource Implications	Approving this motion would oblige the SSMU to include a question to renew the SSMU Access Bursary Fund fee on the upcoming Fall 2025 referendum. If the referendum question passes, the SSMU Access Bursary Fund would continue to be a source of need-based financial aid for SSMU members, amounting to roughly \$700,000-\$900,000 each year.
Impact of Decision and Next Steps	If passed, Elections SSMU would be obliged to include a question to renew the SSMU Access Bursary Fund fee on the upcoming Fall 2025 referendum, and the Vice-President (External Affairs) will conduct a 'Yes' campaign to renew the fund during the referendum campaign period. Further, Elections SSMU would be required to communicate the results of the referendum question to the Office of Student Life and Learning and the Student Accounts office, which would implement the decision of the student body. If this motion fails, the bursary will end as of Winter 2026, and students in need will no longer have access to between \$700,000 and \$900,000 per year in need-based financial aid.
Motion or Resolution for Approval	Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2026 referendum period: Do you agree to the renewal of the opt-outable SSMU Access Bursary Fund Fee of \$8.50 for full-time students and \$4.25 for part-time students per semester (excluding summer), payable by all SSMU Members, starting Fall 2026 and ending Winter 2031 (inclusive), at which time it will be brought to the membership for renewal?

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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.

**Results of the
Vote**

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| ☐ In favour | (20) |
| ☐ Opposed | (0) |
| ☐ Abstain | (0) |
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