

MOTION REGARDING THE STUDENT SERVICES FEE 2025-10-09

Submitted for: 2025-10-09

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2025-10-09-002 (to be assigned by Steering)
Moved by:	Dymetri Taylor <i>President</i>	Current Status:	☐ FOR APPROVAL ☒ APPROVED ☐ POSTPONED ☐ COMMITTED ☐ NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Annette Yu <i>Athletics Representative</i>		

Issue

This motion seeks to initiate the process to increase the Student Services fee, to maintain current services levels and develop additional supports for undergraduate students across all services. Currently at \$204.74/semester for full-time students, aside from the Ministry indexation factor, the Student Services fee has not increased in 3 years.

Background and Rationale

Student Services is an integral part of student life on campus providing inclusive and responsive support and programs to students. The Student Services fee has traditionally funded eight services: Campus Life & Engagement, Career Planning Service, First People's House, International Student Services, McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, Student Accessibility and Achievement, Scholarships & Student Aid Office and Student Wellness Hub.

The last referendum to increase fees was in 2019, providing year-over-year increases covering Fall 2019 to Winter 2022 in addition to the Ministry indexation factor. Since Fall 2022, aside from the indexation factor, the Student Services Fee has not increased. Annual costs of operating services and programs now exceed annual financial capacity. A 4% increase in each

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



of the next 3 years is required to maintain current service levels and develop additional supports for undergraduate students across services.

In addition to student fees which accounts for 62% of Student Services revenue, the University invests nearly \$3M towards Student Services annually. Furthermore, the University has committed to exempting Student Services fees from mandatory overhead fees, currently set at 7.5%, thereby providing additional financial relief of approximately \$900K annually.

A stable increase in revenue will ensure continuity and deliver service and program enhancements. For example, Student Services aims to increase student employment opportunities through peer-led models that fosters collaboration, builds communities, and connections to support resources; introduce online booking for clinical appointments, sustain Youth from Care supports; enhance counselling including a permanent role with Indigenous specialty; strengthen mentorship network for orientation and transition as well as build professional networks with alumni; and introduce industry liaison and career educator roles for career development initiatives.

Alignment with Mission

The Student Services Fee in support of the programs and services offered by eight specialties is aligned with SSMU's mission to advance the diverse needs of undergraduate students by improving accessibility, ensuring sustainability of quality services and promoting social, cultural, and personal opportunities.

Consultations Completed

This motion was drafted in consultation with the Senior Director of Student Services. Student Services' financial position, activities and priorities are discussed at the Committee for Student Services with SSMU representation. SSMU-appointed students also sit on individual service Advisory Boards.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

A structural deficit in Student Services will result in non-replacement of position vacancies and/or non-renewal of contracts and, ultimately, cuts to programs and services.

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Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If passed, Elections SSMU would include a question to increase Student Services Fees on the upcoming Fall 2025 referendum, and conduct a 'Yes' campaign to increase the fees 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 Student Services fee will only increase by the Ministry indexation factor until the next opportunity to consider an increase. As a result, programs and services delivered by Student Services will be reduced.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Students' Society of McGill University Legislative Council approve the following question for the Fall 2025 referendum period:

"Do you agree, that in addition to the regular MES indexation factor, to increase the non-opt-outable Student Services Fee, currently \$204.74 per Semester for full-time students, by 4% (\$212.93) in Fall 2026, 4% (\$221.45) in Fall 2027, and 4% (\$230.31) in Fall 2028 per semester for full-time and part-time undergraduate students, with the understanding that a majority 'no' vote will result in decreased programs and services?"

Results of the Vote

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