



MOTION REGARDING CHANGES TO THE SOLIDARITY FUNDING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE 2025-11-06

Submitted for: 2025-11-06

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Moved by:	Seraphina Crema Black <i>Vice President External Affairs</i>	Current Status:	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR APPROVAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> APPROVED <input type="checkbox"/> POSTPONED <input type="checkbox"/> COMMITTED <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Annette Yu <i>Athletics Counsellor</i>		

Issue This motion seeks to amend the membership of the Solidarity Funding Committee.

Background and Rationale

Who does this issue affect?

This issue affects grassroots, social-justice-oriented groups in Montreal and beyond who rely on the Community Solidarity Fund for accessible funding. It also affects SSMU members, since member fees directly finance these funds and students expect them to be distributed fairly, efficiently, and in line with SSMU's policies.

When did this issue begin / the context? What has been done before?

The Community Solidarity Fund was established to address accessibility barriers in SSMU's other funding streams, such as the requirement for an organizational bank account or limitations to internal groups. The CSF was

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modeled on Concordia's Community Action Fund. To manage this fund, the Community Solidarity Funding Committee (CSFC) was created. However, this committee is relatively new and requires more operational oversight to improve functioning.

Where does this issue primarily take place?

This issue takes place within the governance structures of SSMU, particularly in the way funding is administered and overseen. It also impacts grassroots and student groups who interact with SSMU through its funding processes.

Why must the Legislative Council in particular address the issue?

Council has the responsibility to ensure that SSMU's finances and funding bodies function in a transparent, democratic, and accountable manner.

How will this issue be addressed in the motion? Background and Rationale

The motion will change the composition of the Community Solidarity Funding Committee. We will increase the number of counselors to 2, add VP Finance, and remove the voting role of commissioners. Additionally, we will change the chair of the committee as the role of Community Affairs Coordinator is more aligned with this position.

Alignment with Mission

This motion is consistent with SSMU's mission to deliver exemplary service to students through strong oversight and decision-making by elected representatives.

Consultations Completed

President – Consulted and provided his guidance on the structural changes. Thought that this motion would ensure efficiency.
Vice-President (External Affairs) – This motion will ensure that our funding process is democratic and representative of the student voice.
Community Affairs Commissioner – Consulted on the changes
Policy & Advocacy Coordinator – consulted on the structure and formatting of the motion, as well as supporting the substance of the motion.

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Accounting Department – They agreed that this structural change will ensure that the funding process at the SSMU is standardized, efficient, and effective.

Vice-President (Finance) – Advised on the composition of the committee.

Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary – Advised on the composition of the committee

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

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The composition of the committee will differ from that of the first emergency meeting.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If approved, the changes to the Committee Terms of Reference as seen in Appendix A will go into effect following the disallowance period.

The Governance Department will update the Committee Terms of Reference document and upload it to the website in collaboration with the Communications Department.

A copy of the changes will also be communicated to the Translation Department for translation to French.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that *the Committee Terms of Reference – Funding Committee*, as outlined in Appendix A, be amended.

Results of the Vote

- In favour (28)
- Opposed (0)
- Abstain (0)

Appendix A : Committee Terms of Reference

13. Solidarity Funding Committee

13.1. Oversight

The Solidarity Funding Committee shall be a Committee of the Legislative Council.

13.2. General

The Solidarity Funding Committee manages the administration of the Community Solidarity Fund.

13.3. Responsibilities

The Solidarity Funding Committee will:

- a. oversee funding and explore further avenues for support and solidarity with groups and movements aligned with SSMU's positions and policies;
- b. run a fee renewal campaign when the current Community Solidarity Fund fee is expiring; and
- c. review and make recommendations to the Solidarity Funding Committee's terms of reference at the end of the year.

13.4. Membership

The Membership of the Solidarity Funding Committee shall consist of:

- a. ~~External Affairs~~ **Community Affairs** Commissioner (Chair, non-voting);
- b. Vice-President (External Affairs);
- c. **Vice-President (Finance)**;
- d. ~~One (1)~~ **Two (2)** Councillor;
- e. Four (4) members-at-large;
- f. At least two (2) Commissioners with expertise in the support and direction of marginalized identity affairs, such as:

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- i. Equity Commissioner(s), Black Affairs Commissioner, Indigenous Affairs Commissioner or the Gender and Sexuality Commissioner (non-voting)

13.5. Meetings

Meetings shall occur bi-weekly during the school year and once per month during the summer. In the event of a time-sensitive funding application, the Chair may call a special meeting. Similarly, members of the committee may request the Chair to call a special meeting.

13.6. Quorum

The quorum for Solidarity Funding Committee is a simple majority of the voting members.

13.7. Reporting

The Solidarity Funding Committee shall report to the Legislative Council via the External Affairs Commissioner or the Vice-President (External Affairs). Reporting frequency and dates shall be determined by the Steering Committee.

13.8. Recruitment

The Chair(s) of the Committee, in collaboration with the Secretary General, shall be responsible for recruitment for Committee positions.

13.8.1. Vacancies

Should any seat of the Committee become vacant, the regular recruitment process shall be immediately initiated.