

MOTION REGARDING REFERENDUM QUESTION ON THE RENEWAL OF THE UNIVERSITY CENTRE FEE 2026-02-12

Submitted for: 2026-02-12

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2026-02-12-007 (to be assigned by Steering)
Moved by:	Dymetri Taylor <i>President</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 Representative</i>		

Issue The SSMU University Centre Fee helps to fund the SSMU's important infrastructure, particularly the University Centre, essential for student life. This non-opt-outable fee is set to expire after Winter 2026.

Background and Rationale The SSMU University Centre Fee, initially implemented during the Winter 2014 SSMU Referendum period to accommodate increased costs of the lease agreement between McGill and SSMU, was a non-opt-outable fee of \$8.02 for full-time students and \$4.01 for part-time students per term(excluding Summer). Indexation has resulted in this fee increasing to \$11.56/semester per full-time student, reflecting a 5.6% increase over the past five years. In the first year of its renewal, with indexation, the fee will be \$12.00/semester per full-time student. Indexation will continue at a rate of 2% per year at the beginning of the Fall semester each year.

While the University Centre was closed from 2018 - 2020 , this fee was amended to permit SSMU to use the fee to pay third parties other than

McGill for expenses related to its closure, including storage, movement, use, or occupational expenses.

Due to the lack of space within the University Centre, this motion seeks to renew the fee and expand its application to include all S.S.M.U. infrastructure or space-related expenses, including the University Centre, 3501 Peel, and other infrastructure or space-related costs that may be needed to support and increase student and student group space.

Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with SSMU's mission to provide outstanding services for the SSMU Membership by providing accessible spaces for all students at McGill.

Consultations Completed

Consultations were conducted with the Vice-President (Finance), the SSMU Building Director,, the Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary, Policy & Advocacy Coordinator, and the SSMU Comptroller.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should the renewal of this fee not pass, the SSMU would have to incur significant expenses in its operating budget to cover costs related to building and infrastructure expenses. .

This may lead to the loss of the University Centre and/or other spaces, significantly impacting Student Groups and student life and significantly decreasing the S.S.M.U.'s ability to provide all of its current services to students.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should the renewal of this fee pass, SSMU will continue to levy a fee of \$12.00 for full-time Members and \$6.00 for part-time Members per term (excluding Summer) to fund the S.S.M.U.'s building, infrastructure, and space costs.

**Motion or
Resolution for
Approval**

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the following questions for the Winter 2026 referendum period:

(PART 1):

Do you agree to the renewal of the non-opt-outable SSMU University Centre Fee of \$12.00 per full-time undergraduate SSMU Member and \$6.00 per part-time undergraduate SSMU Member from Fall 2026 until Winter 2031 (inclusive), at which time it will be brought back to the Membership for renewal with the understanding that a majority “no” vote will result in both the termination of the fee and the Society’s ability to have access to the University Centre?

(PART 2):

Do you agree that the University Centre Fee be indexed to increase at a rate of 3.50% per year at the beginning of the Fall semester each year in order to compensate for the year-to-year cost increases, with the understanding that a majority “no” vote will result in no indexation of the fee and the inability to pay the increases of the year-to-year cost increases?

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.

Be it further resolved that this fee will be used to pay for all the SSMU’s building, infrastructure, and space needs, including, but not limited to, the University Centre and 3501 Peel. Any excess generated by this fee will be internally restricted within SSMU’s Capital Expenditures Reserve Fund for building renovation projects, rentals, or purchases.

**Results of the
Vote**

In favour (26)
Opposed (0)
Abstain (0)

Bureau du président du conseil de l'ÂÉUM
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



APPROVED