

MOTION REGARDING PLEBISCITE QUESTION FOR SSMU ATHLETICS TEAM FEE 2026-10-08

Submitted for: 2026-10-08

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-2026-10-08-005 (to be assigned by Steering)
Moved by:	Acadia Knickerbocker <i>Vice-President Clubs & Services</i>	Current Status:	☐ FOR APPROVAL ☒ APPROVED ☐ POSTPONED ☐ COMMITTED ☐ NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Rhys Jones <i>Arts Representative</i>		

Issue

This motion is brought forward to add a plebiscite question to the Fall 2026 referendum ballot. The question asks for student interest in creating a fee to financially support the SSMU Athletic Teams. This follows the decision to incorporate the cut McGill Varsity teams as a distinct category within Student Groups under the SSMU.

Background and Rationale

This motion does not in any way implicate SSMU into action; it is neither referendum nor resolution; a plebiscite question by nature is non-binding. By asking this question, the SSMU is able to better understand its membership's perspective on creating an Athletic Teams Fee.

On November 27, 2025 and January 15, 2026 the SSMU motioned to incorporate the Varsity teams that McGill cut as interim clubs, to be transitioned to their own Student Group category. When this motion was passed, there was no proposed plan to fund the operational costs incurred or to offer any supportive funding to the teams.

Athletic Teams have extensive expenses including competition fees, equipment upgrades, uniform, practice space rentals, travel costs, and

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coaching. Athletic Teams no longer have access to the network and channel through which alumni and interested parties donate to McGill Varsity teams. Without access to this network, teams will face a significant challenge funding their operations. Membership may become prohibitively expensive for athletes.

Accommodating the teams has incurred costs for the SSMU, including approximately \$4,500/year in additional insurance coverage for competitions, practice, and equipment, and \$1045/year in financial administration fees.

This motion seeks to consult the membership on whether a student fee, specifically for Athletic Teams, would be favourable and to that extent, how much that fee would be.

Alignment with Mission

This motion requests consultation from the membership to represent their interests, aligning with SSMU's commitment to Representation.

Consultations Completed

- VP Finance
 - President
 - Board of Directors
 - Governance Affairs Coordinator
 - Chief Returning Officer of Elections SSMU
 - Internal Counsel & Corporate Secretary
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Risk Factors and Resource Implications

As a plebiscite question, this motion proves no immediate threat to the SSMU or its membership.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If approved by the Legislative Council, the plebiscite question as described below will be put forth to the membership during the Fall 2026 Referendum.

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**Motion or
Resolution for
Approval**

Be it resolved, that the SSMU Legislative Council put forward a plebiscite question as follows:

“This question does not in any way implicate SSMU into action; it is neither referendum nor resolution, a plebiscite question by nature is non-binding. By asking this question, the SSMU is able to better understand its membership’s perspective on investment in the local solidarity economy.

On November 27, 2025 and January 15, 2026 the SSMU motioned to incorporate the varsity teams that McGill cut as interim clubs, to be transitioned to their own Student Group category. When this motion was passed, there was no proposed plan to fund the operational costs incurred or to offer any supportive funding to the teams.

Athletic Teams have extensive expenses including competition fees, equipment upgrades, uniform, practice space rentals, travel costs, and coaching.

Athletic Teams no longer have access to the network and channel through which alumni and interested parties donate to McGill Varsity teams including McGill24. Without access to this network, teams will face a significant challenge funding their operations. Existing membership fees are high and without their historical funding support networks, membership may become prohibitively expensive for athletes.

Considering Services have individual fees to fund their operations and Clubs have a collective club fee to cover the administrative costs of maintaining them and to provide a fund that clubs can apply to for their general activities, it is reasonable to create a similar fund for Athletic Teams.

Seeing as the Athletic Teams have expressed substantial concern for their financial sustainability in the future, this motion looks to consult the membership on whether a student fee specifically for Athletic Teams would be favorable.

Would you support the creation of an opt-outable Athletic Team Fee of at least \$0.30 to cover the administrative costs of incorporating the Athletic Teams into the SSMU?

(Yes or No)

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Would you support a higher opt-outable fee, which would include an Athletic Teams Fund, between \$1.00 and \$3.00, to offer financial support for team expenses?

(Yes or No)

Are there any additional comments regarding the structure or amount of an athletics team fee that you would like considered?

(Open answer)

Results of the
Vote

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