



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

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MOTION REGARDING THE FEE INCREASE OF THE Tribune Publication Society (TPS) 2023-02-09

Submitted for: 2023-02-09

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council

Document no.: LEG-PUB-MOT-2023-02-09-014

Moved by: Marco Pizzaro
Vice-President Finance

**Current
Status:**

- ☐ FOR APPROVAL
- ☒ APPROVED
- ☐ POSTPONED
- ☐ COMMITTED
- ☐ NOT APPROVED

Seconded by: Amelia Whitcomb
Science Representative

Issue

The Tribune Publications Society Fee, a non-opt-outable fee at \$4.00 per undergraduate student per term, requires an increase for Winter 2023 to continue operations.

Background and Rationale

The Tribune Publication Society (TPS) published The McGill Tribune, a weekly, independent, student-run newspaper in print and online. Established in 1981, The McGill Tribune provides a wide variety of news, commentary, and investigative journalism through a multitude of formats: written, visual, and multimedia.

Any member of the McGill student body is welcome to contribute to the Tribune. The paper therefore seeks to fill the gap in journalism education that McGill does not provide through a journalism program. Through alumni workshops and yearly journalism conferences, the Tribune connects current students with future opportunities in media and beyond.

The McGill Tribune has the widest range of sections of any student newspaper on McGill campus, comprising News, Opinion, Sports, SciTech, Arts & Entertainment, Feature, Student Life, Photo, Design, Web, and Multimedia.



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The Tribune Publication Society (TPS) fee is essential to funding our weekly operations, training aspiring young journalists, and expanding the paper into the digital realm as the field of journalism continues to transform.

Alignment with Mission

This motion is in line with SSMU's education mandate because it seeks to educate interested students about campus affairs and journalistic practice. It also promotes social and personal opportunities for members of SSMU more broadly.

Consultations Completed

Consultations were conducted with the Office of Student Life and Learning, (Academic Priorities and Student Engagement Officer) and Student Accounts.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should the increase of this fee not pass, the Tribune Publications Society will not receive the funding necessary to continue their operations for the projected five years.

Sustainability Considerations

This motion considers social and environmental sustainability because it expands the Tribune's capacity to deliver news in a digital format and inform students of matters that are essential to a vibrant university democracy. This motion also considers the economic sustainability of the Tribune Publication Society as a student-run, independently managed organization.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should the increase of this fee pass, Members will be charged \$5.50/term for undergraduate students, excluding summer. This will allow the Tribune Publication Society to continue their operations.



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Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the Legislative Council approve the following question for the Winter 2023 referendum period:

WHEREAS the current fee levy has allowed for the Tribune Publication Society (TPS) to operate since the last proposed fee increase in 2018;

WHEREAS the TPS has consistently demonstrated its financial responsibility with the funds it receives from students;

WHEREAS the TPS has to take into consideration the effect of inflation and economic instability from the pandemic onwards.

WHEREAS a fee increase is necessary for The McGill Tribune to continue as a reliable and critical editorial voice on campus, as well as an educational opportunity for its members;

WHEREAS a fee increase is necessary to support the additional positions that were created since 2019 to maintain financial stability. As well as, ensure we can continue our growth as an organization in future years.

WHEREAS the fee increase would allow the Tribune to expand its multimedia and digital reporting, which are increasingly necessary tools as journalism moves toward primarily online delivery.

Do you agree to increase the non-optoutable fee titled "McGill Tribune (SSTB)" from \$4.00 per student per semester to \$5.50, payable by all SSMU Members, starting in Fall 2023 to Winter 2028 (inclusive), at which time it will be brought back to the membership for renewal?

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU Legislative Council adopts the actionable aspects of this question, and recommends the ratification of this referendum question to the Elections SSMU and Board of Directors, and that any grammatical or legal changes necessary do not need the re-approval of the Legislative Council.

Be it further resolved, that the TPS provide a financial budget on the referendum question to inform voters on the usage of the fee.



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Results of the Vote

In favour	()
Opposed	()
Abstain	()