



Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

Students' Society of McGill University

Located on Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe, traditional territories.

ssmu.ca | (514) 398-6800 | 3600 rue McTavish, Suite 1200, Montréal, QC, H3A 0G3

MOTION REGARDING RENEWAL OF THE ENVIRONMENT FEE REFERENDUM QUESTION

2023-02-09

Submitted for: 2023-02-09

Submitted to: SSMU Legislative Council

Document no.: LEG-PUB-MOT-2023-02-09-012

Moved by: Marco Pizarro
VP Finance

Coun

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

Seconded by: Benson Wan,
Medicine Representative

Issue

The Environment Fee supports sustainable initiatives on campus, both through initiatives selected by the sustainability committee and by application to the funding committee.

Background and Rationale

The Environment Fee is an opt-outable fee of \$1.00 per semester whose mandate is the following:

“The Environment Fee is intended as a source of financial assistance for a wide range of large and small-scale projects intended to increase environmental sustainability of the Society or surrounding community, including:

- a. environmental Initiatives within the Society, such as infrastructure changes to Society events and space;
- b. Initiatives that contribute to the betterment of the environmental impact of McGill or a McGill-related group by focusing on sustainable, long-term change;
- c. Initiatives that work to measure the environmental impacts of McGill or a McGill-related group; and



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d. environmental Initiatives that focus on advocacy or education.”

Part of the fee is allocated by the environment committee, which is chaired by the sustainability commissioners, and the remaining fee is allocated by the funding committee. The sustainability commissioners deliberate on all applications that the funding committee receives towards the environment fund.

Alignment with Mission

This motion is aligned with SSMU’s mission as the fee supports sustainable projects and initiatives on campus, and facilitates sustainability aspects of events. More broadly, this motion and fee empowers student groups and projects to align better with the sustainability-focused initiatives recommended by SSMU.

Consultations Completed

The SSMU Sustainability Commissioners and the SSMU Funding Committee have been consulted.

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

If this motion is approved, students may choose to pay \$1.00 per semester towards this fee.

If this motion is approved, sustainable initiatives and projects will continue to be funded and supported by the SSMU.

Sustainability Considerations

This motion promotes sustainability as it facilitates the existence of sustainable projects. Without this fee, such projects would have limited access to funding which may jeopardize their existence. Thus, the non-renewal of this fee would have a negative impact on sustainability efforts on campus.



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Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If this motion is passed, the environment fee renewal will be added to the Winter 2023 Referendum. If the referendum passes, the Environment Fee will continue to exist as an opt-outable fee for students.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

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

“Do you agree to the renewal of the opt-outable Environment fee of \$1.00 per semester, per student, payable by all undergraduate students who are members of the SSMU, starting Fall 2023 and ending in Winter 2028 (inclusive), excluding summers, with the understanding that a majority vote “no” would lead to a reduction in the amount of money available to students who wish to start sustainable initiatives?”

Be it further resolved, that a budget will be provided on referendum ballot outlining the allocation of this fee in the spirit of financial transparency.

Be it further resolved, that the SSMU Legislative Council adopts the actionable aspects of this question and that any grammatical or technical changes necessary do not need the re-approval of the Legislative Council.

Be it further resolved, that the Legislative Council approves this motion, and recommends the ratification to the Board of Directors.

Results of the Vote

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| In favour | (UNANIMOUS) |
| Opposed | () |
| Abstain | () |