



Bureau du président du conseil de l'AÉUM

Située sur les territoires traditionnels des collectivités Haudenosaunee et Anishinaabe.

SSMU Office of the Speaker

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MOTION REGARDING SSMU MENSTRUAL HEALTH FEE REFERENDUM QUESTION

Submitted for: 2025-02-05

Submitted to: SSMU Board of Directors

Document no.: BOD-PUB-MOT-2025-02-05-001

Moved by: Dymetri Taylor
Director

Current Status:

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

Seconded by: Pauline Jolicoeur
Director

Issue

[Since 2016, the SSMU has resolved to provide free menstrual products to students.](#) The Menstrual Health Project operates exclusively from the budget collected from this fee to restock over 160 bathrooms around campus with pads and tampons, distribute reusable menstrual products once monthly, and host menstrual education events. The Project currently employs five students on its staff in part-time positions. This motion proposes a renewal of the non-opt-outable SSMU Menstrual Health Products Fee at the current fee of \$2.40.

Background and Rationale

The SSMU Menstrual Health Project (MHP) has worked to combat menstrual inequity for undergraduate students since its creation alongside a student fee in 2016. The fee creation of \$0.90 per student per semester led to the initial installation of around 50 free dispenser units. Since then, the MHP has expanded to over 160 bathrooms across campus - from McIntyre Medical to the Music Library - where it offers pads and tampons in baskets on countertops for as-needed use.

In 2020, a fee increase to \$2.40 was passed to accommodate for growth in the program in both number of bathrooms and in scope. With these funds, in 2021, the MHP began offering free reusable items. Since the Fall of 2022, we have held a monthly product distribution in which students can take a



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free reusable item each time. The MHP's offerings now include period underwear, reusable pads, menstrual cups, and menstrual discs. These events are held in public spaces across campus to bring attention to menstrual health. In the Spring of 2024, we began offering pads and tampons in residences, which are maintained by the Residence Life staff.

As noted in the [Free Menstrual Products Policy \(Appendix A\)](#): "The SSMU will continue to bring this fee back to the membership for renewal, at the initially passed price per student or higher, until McGill, or the Municipal, Provincial or Federal Government recognize that these products must be classified as Necessary Goods and pass a subsidy program to eliminate their cost and/or supply them publicly." This fee must be renewed in order to fulfill this mandate and continue the work of the MHP across campus.

Alignment with Mission

The Initiative aligns with SSMU's equity policy, particularly pertaining to the [motion passed by Legislative Council on October 20th, 2016](#), which resolved that the distribution of free menstrual products on campus is an equity issue. It further aligns with the updated [Free Menstrual Products Policy \(Appendix A\)](#), passed by Legislative Council in 2022.

Consultations

Menstrual Health Commissioner is in favour of this motion as its coauthor. Further, the Menstrual Health Team is in favour of the fee being renewed so the Project can continue operations. The VP Finance reviewed and supports this motion. The Policy & Advocacy Coordinator consulted on the format and structure of this motion.

☒ I have read and completed the requirements outlined in the Consultation Policy:

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

Should this fee renewal fail, the SSMU Menstrual Health Project would cease to function as directed by its mandate. The project would be unable to afford menstrual products for bathrooms, residences, or its monthly pickups. It would not be able to afford its student staff who restock bathrooms and plan menstrual health education events, resulting in layoffs.



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Impact of Decision and Next Steps

Should this motion pass, the Menstrual Health Commissioner and Coordinators will campaign for a 'yes' vote so it can continue its operations. If approved, the included question will be submitted to appear on the Winter 2025 Referendum ballot.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

That the following question be included in the Winter 2025 referendum:

"WHEREAS, the SSMU Menstrual Health Project has provided free menstrual products for undergraduate students around Downtown campus since 2016 and currently stocks over 160 bathrooms;

WHEREAS, the SSMU Menstrual Health Project provides menstrual products for distribution in residences, at Frosh, and at monthly pickups;

WHEREAS, the SSMU Menstrual Health Project employs students part-time;

WHEREAS, McGill does not presently offer menstrual products for students in free and accessible formats;

Do you agree to the renewal of the non-opt-outable SSMU Menstrual Health Products Fee at a rate of \$2.40 per student per semester, payable by all SSMU members, starting in Fall 2025 and ending in Winter 2030 (inclusive), at which point it will be brought back to the Membership for renewal, with the understanding that a majority 'no' vote will result in a discontinuation of the SSMU Menstrual Health Project and its services?"

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.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(7)
Opposed	()
Abstain	(1)



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Appendix A : Free Menstrual Products Policy

See the Free Menstrual Products Policy in the [MOTION REGARDING FREE MENSTRUAL HEALTH PRODUCTS ON CAMPUS 2022-12-01](#). This is the document that provides a mandate to the Menstrual Health Project and the SSMU.

Appendix B : Purchase Numbers for Fall 2024

In the Fall of 2024, the Menstrual Health Project purchased the following number of pads, tampons, and reusable items across its campus operations, residences, Frosh, and monthly pickups. We purchase pads and tampons monthly as we go through them at high rates and these can therefore be considered used in full.

We had remaining stock of period underwear, reusable pads, and menstrual discs from last year that we also distributed at monthly pickups.

Product	Number of Boxes	Number of Individual Items
Joni Pads (Super and Regular)	124	24,800
Joni Non-Applicator Tampons (Super and Regular)	64	12,288
Joni Applicator Tampons	20	4,880
Maxipads	30	7,500
Tampax	28	14,000
Reusable Items (i.e. total menstrual cups, discs, period underwear, reusable pads)	–	657
	Total Amount Spent on Products for Fall 2024 = \$41,926	Total Number of Items Purchased for Fall 2024: 64,125



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Appendix C : Fall 2024 Cost of Goods

The Menstrual Health Project uses Joni products in baskets, which make up most of our operations around campus. Maxipads and Tampax are used in dispensers around campus, which only take these products. We distribute Aisle and Fornix at our monthly pickups around campus, in line with the Free Menstrual Products Policy ([Appendix A](#)).

Product	Cost Per Box	Number Per Box	Cost Per Item
Joni Pads (Super and Regular)	\$60	200	\$0.30
Joni Non-Applicator Tampons (Super and Regular)	\$60	192	\$0.31
Joni Applicator Tampons	\$116	288	\$0.40
Maxipads	\$94	250	\$0.37
Tampax	\$216	500	\$0.43
Aisle Period Boxers	\$36.40	1	\$36.40
Aisle Period Hipsters	\$33.60	1	\$33.60
Aisle Menstrual Cups	\$25.35	1	\$25.35
Aisle Reusable Maxi Pads	\$11.40	1	\$11.40
Aisle Reusable Mini Pads	\$9.60	1	\$9.60
Fornix Discs	\$16.20	1	\$16.20



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Appendix D : Fall 2024 Budget

The MHP operates with a total budget of approximately \$54,000 collected from fees each semester.

Per the [Free Menstrual Products Policy](#): *“If, at any point, the SSMU finds itself running a surplus with the funds collected, the surplus collected will roll over into next years budget for the purchasing of more sustainable health and hygiene products, including but not limited to, menstrual cups, reusable pads, period underwear, and biodegradable projects and use them for initiatives such as free monthly pick ups, as well as the maintenance and improvement of existing initiatives and projects.”*

We use our full budget from student fees each semester, with additional costs covered by surplus from past years. Despite operating beyond collected student fees, we are able to maintain our current budget using this surplus and are therefore not campaigning for a fee increase.

Product Costs	\$41,926
Student Staff Wages	\$10,370
Misc. (i.e. shipping costs, baskets, dispensers, refill stickers, info cards, etc.)	\$3,000
Total:	\$55,296