

Health Plan Renewal

Preamble:

The PGSS Health and Wellness Committee (HAWC) recently reviewed the results of a comprehensive survey of over 300 PGSS members to determine what coverage changes members wanted to make to the health and dental plan offered by PGSS. The committee, in an attempt to maximize the aspects of coverage desired by members while minimizing the overall cost of the plan, agreed to present a set of recommended coverage changes to the plan in a referendum question to determine the will of the PGSS membership regarding the plan. Last year, the total plan cost was \$413.50 (Health \$ 224.25; Dental \$189.25), though an increase in health plan claims over the past year will force the cost to increase if current coverage levels are maintained. The committee recommends the following change to the plan:

Increase physiotherapy coverage from \$20 to \$30 per visit with a \$400 annual maximum (premium change +\$4.45) AND

Increase psychology coverage from \$20 to \$30 per visit with a \$500 annual maximum (premium change +\$6.50) AND

Reduce eyeglass/contact coverage from \$200 to \$100 per 24 months (premium change -\$23.85) AND

Remove coverage for naturopathy (premium change -\$12.25) AND

Add coverage massage therapy with MD referral at \$20/visit with a \$400 annual maximum (premium change +\$6.50)

Therefore,

For the year 2011-2012, do you agree that the PGSS Health and Dental plan:

1) Be renewed with the coverage changes recommended by the PGSS Health and Wellness Committee for a total plan cost of \$427.37 (Health \$255.69; Dental \$171.68)

2) Be renewed with no coverage changes for a total plan cost of \$446.02 (Health 274.34; Dental 171.68)

3) Not be renewed

Post Graduate Student Life Fund

Preamble:

Currently at McGill there are 52 Post Graduate Student Associations (PGSA), 35 of which are recognized by the PGSS and 17 which are not officially recognized. 13 of the 35 recognized PGSA's currently charge fees to students in their department. Just under 3000 out of 7300 graduate students are currently members of PGSA's that collect fees. Previously, PGSA's were able to choose whether or not to charge a fee to students in their department. The average fee charged to graduate students was \$9.60 per semester in 2010-2011. PGSA's organize and administer various events and functions on campus which greatly enhance student life including guest speakers and conferences. These events are made possible by the contributions of the PGSA fees. However, due to recent McGill policy changes, it will no longer be possible for individual PGSA to collect fees after 2013. A proposed solution to this issue is the creation of

a "Post Graduate Student Life Fund", which would collect the equivalent of PGSA fees and redistribute the fees to recognized PGAs based on the number of students registered. The departments which do not have PGAs are encouraged to form associations but in the interim are able to receive funding through an application process. The PGSS will be holding a series of workshops to help unrecognized PGAs to become recognized and gain access to this funding.

This fee, if implemented, will replace all other PGSA fees currently collected.

Do you agree that, as of September 2011, a new fee be created for all Post Graduate Students, according to the following per semester fee schedule, to be paid to the "Post Graduate Student Life Fund" in order to ensure proper funding of all Post Graduate Student Associations?

Part-time (1- 11.5 credits) – \$5.00 /per semester

Full-time (12+ credits) – \$10.00 /per semester

Additional Session – \$2.50 /per semester

Mental Health

Preamble:

Currently, graduate students have access to fewer doctors at McGill Mental Health Services than undergraduates. This service differential is the result of a student service fee increase that was accepted by undergraduate students but rejected by graduate students in 2008. The current situation, in which graduate students, who generally make greater use of mental health services than undergraduates, have access to fewer doctors, will remain in place unless the fees paid to provide this service are made equal between graduate and undergraduate students. A fee increase would not only result in access to an equal number of doctors for graduate students and undergraduates, but it would also allow for the hiring of additional doctors to address students' mental health needs.

Therefore,

Do you agree that, as of September 2011, the Student Services Fee be increased according to the following fee schedule in order to equalize mental health services between graduate students and undergraduates and that the increase occur in addition to any other ancillary fee increases implemented by the University according to the Québec Ministry of Education (MELS) guidelines?

Part-time (1-11.5 credits) – increase by \$4.50

Full-time (12+ credits) – increase by \$7.50

Additional Session – increase by \$2.50

Part-time currently \$75.50, new \$80.00

Full-time currently \$125.50, new \$133.00

Additional Session currently \$42.00, new \$44.50