



MEMO

From the office of the...
Vice President Finance & CFO

TO: Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Ryan MacDonald, VP Finance
SUBJECT: HSR Referendum
DATE: November 21st, 2016

Student Representative Assembly,

I am writing this memo to detail a motion that is slightly unusual to come to the SRA but is necessary to be able to fit within our bylaws. Based on our agreement with the HSR, the fee must go to referendum every three years and as such this January is when it is slated to go to referendum.

Unfortunately, we are not in a position to detail what specifically the fee will be once it goes to referendum as we are in the middle of the negotiation.

Current Negotiation Status

The HSR has notified us that they are unwilling to continue with the existing fee structure as they have deemed it as "unsustainable". We fundamentally disagree with this argument as they have experienced nearly a 25% jump from last year to this year with respect to the actual dollars collected due to the fee being tied to the previous year's monthly pass and corresponding fee increases as well as enrollment increases as well.

The major hurdle is that we should be hearing in the first week of December if the presto solution will be available for September 2017 and as such will significantly change the structure of the fee. This is a real possibility and something in our opinion students would be excited to see as it would integrate a province wide post-secondary student discount to all transit usage outside the HSR. Our dead date for negotiations is December 19th.

Why does the motion have no fee in it?

This is an important question and one I've had to get my head wrapped around as our administrative staff see this as the only way in which we can include this referendum to coincide with the presidential election. Bylaw 10/A

clearly states that once a referendum is called and proclamation happens there needs to be at least 10 school days for nominations so a side would have to be put together. So either we must put forward the referendum with a fee confirmed on the first SRA meeting in January or we put it to SRA generals in March of which will not coincide with the University's fee schedule confirmation which needs to be completed by the end of February.

If you have any questions please let me know,

Ryan MacDonald
Vice President Finance & CFO
McMaster Students Union