



*Sheridan Student Union*

**BOARD REPORT**

**TO:** Sheridan Student Union Board

**FROM:** Enrique Ponce, President  
Jamie King, General Manager  
Hanh, Ngo, Senior Manager, Finance

**DATE:** September 15, 2017

**RE:** Sheridan Shuttle 2017-18 Fee Approval / 2018-19 Fee Collection Protocol

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this report is twofold:

- 1) to request authorization from the SSU Board to release funds related to the 2017-18 operation of the Sheridan Shuttle that was contingent upon a referendum being coordinated, and;
- 2) to briefly inform the SSU Board and make a recommendation in advance of an October 3<sup>rd</sup> presentation that will request approval for a financing strategy for the 2018-19 shuttle operations.

**BACKGROUND:**

- 1) Under the board's direction, the SSU entered a cost-sharing agreement with Sheridan College to establish an inter-campus shuttle service in December, 2013. The College held the service contract, and SSU was a financial partner, contributing approximately \$300,000 - \$350,000 annually towards this service.

Since 2013 the shuttle service has grown in popularity, however it has experienced service and capacity issues which have been discussed with the SSU Board and analysed through a previously circulated student survey.

Following several discussions with the SSU Board and Ancillary Fee Committee representatives, the SSU Board gave direction during the 196<sup>th</sup>

meeting that 2017-18 shuttle funding be withheld until the College commits to presenting a referendum question to the student body assessing their desire for such a service, along with costs and a proposed sustainable funding model.

Subsequent to this direction, a referendum proposal was presented to the SSU Board at the 206<sup>th</sup> meeting (in early August), and for several reasons the SSU Board expressed concern and a lack of support for the referendum plan. As a result of this feedback, the SSU Management believes it is important in good faith to clarify the intent of the SSU Board to support the Sheridan Shuttle between September 2017 and August 2018.

SSU Management is seeking a motion to approve the transfer of up to \$350,000 to fund the Sheridan Student Union's portion of the Sheridan Shuttle between September 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018.

- 2) On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sheridan representatives will meet with the SSU Board to discuss a proposed shuttle financing strategy, and to address questions related to service level issues.

Information was presented to the SSU Board during the 206<sup>th</sup> meeting indicating that during 2018-19 the total costs per student to run the shuttle in its current state amounted to approximately \$21.00 per student, per term.

Further to clarification, it has been confirmed that if the SSU wishes for students to continue to partner in this initiative on the principle that students will pay 50% of the operational costs of the service and the college will pay 50%, this results in the need to provide funding of approximately \$10.50 per student, per term.

Further to a financial review and in acknowledgement of several significant fiscal pressures facing the SSU in the near term, SSU Management does not recommend continuing to fund the shuttle from operational reserves.

While some discussion has emerged suggesting that we may be able to add this fee to the SSU's established SSU Activity Fee, SSU Management does not believe this is a preferred option for a variety of reasons related to fiscal transparency, and demonstrating value to students as it relates to the provision of SSU provided activities.

The establishment of ancillary fee revenue to finance the shuttle service on a move-forward basis effective September 1, 2018 is recommended.

SSU Management respectfully recommends that the SSU Board consider recommending a new ancillary fee to provide the student funding to run this service effective September 1, 2018. Based on the latest information that has been received, that fee would be \$10.50 per student per term.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Unless the SSU finds some way to finance the student contribution to the Sheridan Shuttle through additional ancillary fees, SSU runs the risk of needing to finance Sheridan Shuttle commitments through our established reserves, with commitments in the near term that may likely need to be in the \$300,000 to \$450,000 range.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the SSU Board RECEIVE this report for information, and SUPPORT the following two motions:

**Proposed Motion for September 19<sup>th</sup>:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sheridan Student Union will provide up to \$350,000 on behalf of Sheridan College students to support Sheridan Shuttle services between September 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018.

**Proposed Motion for October 3<sup>rd</sup> (following College presentations):**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sheridan Student Union recommends that ongoing student contributions to support 50% of Sheridan Shuttle costs should be collected through the establishment of a distinctly named ancillary fee, the amount of which should be established at \$10.50 per student per term starting in the 2018-19 academic year.