

Community Engagement Committee Meeting 2011-09-23

- The Community Engagement Committee (formerly the Charity Committee) was created in Fall 2010 after the following student referendum question passed:

“Do you agree to contribute \$0.50 per semester (opt-outable) to a SSMU fund that will be distributed to disaster-stricken countries, and to the formation of a SSMU Charity Committee that will oversee the fund and organize charity events at McGill (the structure of the committee and details about the events it will organize can be found at www.ssmucharitycommittee.tk)?”

- The Charity Committee was responsible for allocating the Charity Fund. Upon its inception it created a funding application form and began publicizing at the SSMU club level. Between February and April 2011 it received 13 applications and allocated over \$10,000 for events and initiatives. Funded events were typically fundraisers that were organized by SSMU clubs and which raised money for international organizations. The funding criteria were very broad, having to meet four very general “guiding principles”:
 - 1) Contribute toward achieving equal opportunity within one’s community, region, country, and world.
 - 2) Promote the idea that a person’s life achievements should be determined by his or her talents, efforts, or ambition, rather than pre-determined circumstances such as race, gender, social or family background.
 - 3) Strive toward the avoidance of deprivation of others within one’s community, region, country, or world.
 - 4) Promote a culture of inclusion at McGill University by directly engaging diverse stakeholders in the community.
- After much deliberation and consultation in April and May, 2011, the Charity Decided to rename itself the Community Engagement Committee and drastically rethink its mandate. The documents before you today represent a synthesis of this rethinking process. The new overarching mandate of the CEC is that it will only fund projects that foster an intimate relationship between McGill students and a community organization. Furthermore, the fund will be allocated partially for McGill-Montreal projects and partially for disaster/humanitarian aid.
- If you have any questions please contact Max Luke (sciencesenator2@ssmu.mcgill.ca) or any other member of the CEC.