

2025-2026 Finance Committee Semi-Annual Report

March 3rd, 2026 – SAGM

2024-2025 Membership (Checks and Balances Committee members)

Chair: **Maggie Lawton** (Director of Finance)

- Kyla Turner (Executive Director), non-voting
- Wyatt Maddox (GRC)
- Bernardo Leite (GRC)
- Jessica Li (GRC)
- Marcela Zamudio (GRC)
- Liam Mihalyuk (GRC)
- Chloë Farr (GRC)
- Frances Armas (GRC)
- Amélie Cazalais (GRC)

Duties of the Committee

The general purpose of the Finance Committee is to oversee the overall financial administration of the Graduate Student's Society (GSS). In detail, the committee serves to develop the annual budget for all the GSS operations, oversee the maintenance of the capital budget and make recommendations to the Executive Board on capital expenditures. Additionally, the Finance Committee shall support and advise on transparency of the financial administration of the GSS.

Work Completed

Planning of 2026 Fee Referendum:

During October to December, Finance Committee finalized the process of planning and preparing for a referendum in 2026 to readjust membership fees to better match member interest and use. This project was initiated due to a request to GRC to improve support for our Constituency Groups, as well as an internal need to adjust or remove unusable fees. The committee reviewed the financial and user information provided by these groups in order to determine an effective balance. Specifically, they proposed an increase to the Constituency Group fees (including the Society for Students with a Disability (SSD), Students of Colour Collective (SOCC), Native Students Union (NSU), Gender Empowerment Centre (GEM) and Pride) to \$4.97 per on-campus student per term, divided proportional to the groups operating budgets, at ~\$1 each. They also proposed reducing the fee paid to World University Services Canada (WUSC) from \$5 to \$1. In addition, the committee proposed removing unusable fees such as the Student Advocate fund (the UVSS counterpart of which failed at referenda, thus being unable to fund the position it had been intended to fund) and University 101 (a program which ended in August 2025), as well as increasing the Food & Beverage fee from \$11 to \$13 to better support Wednesday Coffee.

Consultation and Approval of 2026-2027 Budget:

Finance Committee was also engaged in reviewing draft budgets for 2026-2027, and consulting on where to place the needed ~\$20,000 of cuts. These cuts were particularly high due to the significant planned expense of replacing the restaurant's grease trap (~\$50,000). They also performed consultations with the Staff and Executive Board, in order to better collect and assess opinions. In February, they reviewed the final draft budget and approved it for presentation at the AGM.