Group Description

Student Wellness Services (SWS) houses four services within including (1) medical clinic (2) counselling services, (3) health promotion and (4) QSAS (Queen’s Student Accessibility Services). SWS provides students access to a large group of primary care health practitioners and allied health professionals (nurses, Occupational Therapists, mental health counsellors, registered dietician) for physical and mental health needs. A team of health promoters who work with paid and volunteer students to offer student programming and events geared to healthy lifestyles and helping others. As well as QSAS advisors that determine accommodation needs for students with disabilities and who advocate on behalf of those students when needed.

The demand for mental health services continues to rise at Queen’s and across the post-secondary education sector and the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to increasing the acuity and volumes of students looking for supports. SWS has a triage team to help students navigate to the most appropriate resource for their issue. Short term solution-focused counselling appointments are the primary source of counseling for students. However, counselling services also provides urgent care for students same day or as needed, as well as mental health navigation to allowing students to drop in and sit with a counsellor and ask some questions regarding their specific situation.

SWS is also dedicated to providing care for students with disabilities and those that identify as 2SLGBTQ+. Specialized counselling roles have been created so that students have a large range of options for counselling care which increases the choices they have in accessing our services. A Transcare Team has also been established in SWS to help improve and translate how we ensure we are meeting the needs of trans students across all of our services.
Budgetary Breakdown

The SGPS fee will be used to support the services and programming in our department geared towards all students undergraduate, graduate and professional students. The fee supports the overall work of the integrated SWS service and some examples of the use of the fee are provided below:

- SWS has a mental health counsellors who provide mental health care
- SWS has physician, nursing and nurse practitioner appointments for students that have primary health care needs such as family planning, publicly funded vaccinations, treatment of common viral illness, health teaching related to self care etc
- Health promotion provides mental health training such as ASSIST and Safetalk to students, as well as health lifestyle appointments, smoking cessation support and Prescription Exercise programming
- The integrated services works together to meet the health and mental health care needs, disability related needs and self care needs of both AMS and SGPS students.
Student Fee Questionnaire

1. Why is your group seeking a fee?

   Our group is seeking the fee so that we can continue to provide physical and mental health care to students, as well as health promotion and QSAS supports. SWS services are essential for students wellness and can directly impact students academic success. It is important that SWS be able to continue to support SGPS and AMS students in all aspects of the clinic and this service fee helps us greatly.

2. What direct benefit will SGPS members derive from granting your group a fee?

   The fee helps to maximize access to health and wellness services and helps to sustain options for students who will benefit from high quality and timely access to all of the SWS service providers, activities and services.

3. How is the dollar value of the fee related to the benefit you are proposing to provide?

   The fee represents a portion of the revenue received by SWS that allows us to offer a wide range of services and supports to Queen’s students. Given the majority of our staff are health care professionals with designations that report to regulatory bodies, they are important, and sometimes challenging to recruit and retain. The fee contributes to our ability to have a wide range of professional staff who see approximately 50,000 student visits per year. It is one of the funding sources that contributes to the resources required to offer campus based comprehensive health and wellness care at Queen’s.

4. When was your group established?

   SWS has been on campus for several decades.

5. If you have a collected a fee in the past, what initiatives and/or opportunities have you provide the Queen’s Community with the collected funds?

   The annual fees help to maximize access to a range of services for all students, including graduate and professional student programming and supports. These services are essential for the health and well being of students on campus.