



NOSMU
Student Council

Price Negotiation Process & Updates 2026-27

Background

The NOSMUSC health plan was initially implemented based on national average estimates. Over the past several years, we have seen increases in fees, in an attempt to equate our cumulative plan usage. For the 2022-2023 academic year, the price was set at \$371.17. Due to higher-than-expected student usage, this fee increased to \$409.43 for the 2023-2024 academic year. This trend of high usage has persisted, leading to an increase to \$552.73 for 2024-2025 and a rise to \$609.12 in 2025-2026.

Although there has been a decrease in usage, there still continues to be approximately a 154% usage rate. This has decreased compared to 212% in the academic year of 2023-2024, but despite this there is still a need for an increase in student premium fees.

Current Situation

In March 2026, we received the comprehensive report on user data for the 2024-2025 academic year:

- NOSMUSC paid \$129,370 in fees for the period of September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025.
- Claims for the same period totaled \$198,659, down from \$214,764 in 2023-2024, resulting in a usage rate of 154% for the 2024-25 year, which significantly exceeds industry standards.

Price Adjustment

In response to this high usage rate, our insurer initially proposed increasing the price by 20%. Through negotiations, we were able to secure two rates, with an increase in student premiums by about 14.9% and 19.7%. With a 14.9% increase in premiums, students would see only an 80% coverage of drugs, whereas with a 19.7% increase in premiums, students would maintain

the same current policy coverage. Given the results of the student health benefits feedback survey, the majority of students wanted to protect drug and dental benefits first and foremost, and were agreeable to an increase in fees to maintain current coverage. The results of this survey are visible in the General Council meeting minutes on our website.

Decision-Making Process

The NOSMUSC General Council carefully evaluated this information and decided to accept the fee increase while maintaining the current benefits package. This decision was made at the April General Council Meeting, considering factors such as high student benefit usage, student priorities in protecting drug and dental benefits specifically, and comparative industry input.

Future Considerations

We recognize that this increase may be concerning for many students. This remains a top priority of the president and NOSMUSC General Council to seek the most suitable and comprehensive options for students. Please be assured that we are actively exploring future options, including:

- Adjusting the coverage structure
- Offering multiple plans at various price points
- Exploring different insurance providers

We will continue to work with our partners at We Speak Student (becoming Alumo) to navigate future rate changes. We continue to communicate with alternative providers; however, our high usage remains a challenge in securing better alternative rates.

We encourage you to share your feedback with us, your student year representative, or me directly. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to the NOSMUSC Executive team, your Year Representative, or the President at sc.president@nosm.ca.

Student wellness, both health and financial, remains a top priority for the NOSMUSC. We continue to encourage students to utilize their health benefits as they see fit as we navigate these changes. We remain committed to supplementing the student experience and ensuring continued access to essential health benefits.



Zachary Nott, NOSMUSC President 2026-27