



# MEMO

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Aniruddh Arora, Member of SRA Engineering  
SUBJECT: McMaster Solar Car Project Annual Fee Referendum  
DATE: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022

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Dear SRA,

Through repeated discussions, auditing, and review of the group's budgets alongside the Student Representative Assembly, I would like to suggest that this non-MSU, non-University organization has failed to meet the requirements outlined in Section 3.1 of MSU Bylaw-9. If any SRA members would like to raise concerns other than these, they may feel free to do so.

Student fees should be used responsibly with a suitable structure. There are inconsistencies throughout the budgets provided, but here are some important ones that I would like to address:

- **Failing to Deliver a Functional Solar Car:**  
This group has not been successful in creating a functional solar car since 2016 at the Formula Sun Grand Prix 2016 and expect to have one ready by 2024 for the American Solar Challenge with no guarantee. They have not stated their plan of action on how they plan to achieve this goal, nor have they updated the student representative assembly of their current progress to achieve this goal.
- **Inclusion and Diversity:**  
The services of this group cater to a niche group on the McMaster campus. Bearing this in mind, the group has not made any investments in outreach or diversifying its composition and does not plan to do so either. It is important to consider how the funding the group has access to relates to the student population that it benefits. It was stated that there is only business and engineering participation so far.

Work Sessions were introduced in their presentation last year, but there has been no progress report on these sessions either.

- **What is their real goal?**

A lot of the costs include maintenance, repair, and new equipment, which is leading to increased spending. There needs to be accountability for damaged equipment alongside cutting costs wherever possible since their goal is to provide **intellectual value** to the students rather than build **industry standard models**.

It was stated that there is still the possibility that this team may not be able to build a functional car despite the heavy focus on building industry standard models.

- **Fraudulent Budgets:**

The budgets submitted by the group are clearly incorrect since the starting and ending balances do not line up. Considering this has been a recurring situation in at least the past 2 years, a justification for these inconsistencies needs to be provided.

Extra Details:

The budget for **2021-2022** states a Deficit of \$5284.56 at the end of the year.  
The budget for **2022-2023** states a Beginning balance of \$64,003.46 for the year.  
An explanation for this additional **\$69,288.02** is due.

The budget for **2020-2021** states a Surplus of \$12,823.52 at the end of the year.  
The budget for **2021-2022** states a Beginning balance of \$73,535.93 for the year.  
An explanation for this additional **\$60,712.41** is due.

An explanation for these overages may be that the group is projecting a lot of cash outflow in their budgets at the start but does not spend much by the end. Hence, these are misrepresentative budgets that don't reflect their actions.

Finally, due to this group's mismanagement of its finances over the past few years and its lack of accountability to the MSU, I do not think it should receive MSU funding this year.

Hence, I would like to put forth a motion to request the SRA to move the Annual Fee of \$1.11 for the McMaster Solar Car Project to referendum.

Best,

Aniruddh Arora  
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