

Questions for OPIRG

1. Could you kindly provide some insight into the factors contributing to the higher-than-usual office upkeep costs?

The higher-than-usual cost is because we have budgeted \$8000.00 for Brand & Website Development which falls under Office Costs in our Bookkeeping system. The OPIRG McMaster website had not been revamped in more than a decade and was not meeting current-day website standards or serving students in the best way possible. GreenXCo has been contracted to re-do the OPIRG McMaster website. I have attached the agreement we have with GreenXCo. In the 2023-24 Budget we initially submitted, and I have attached again here, you can see a more comprehensive breakdown of our Office Expenses for the year.

2. What strategies or initiatives are being considered to manage the surplus from previous years?

OPIRG accumulated surplus during Covid when programming on campus was limited and we are on track to spend more than the student fees we receive each year. As you can see from our submitted budget we have budgeted to spend \$49,000 of our surplus this year. We have notably increased our funding for:

The Campus Community Garden

The Experiential Learning Program ([more info here](#))

As we re-orient to an organizational reality with students predominantly back on campus, we are looking to grow our organization in a manner that is sustainable. To do this, we have:

Engaged in Board visioning sessions and consultations with engaged student volunteers on how to best expand programming aligned with our mission and mandate.

Expanded our finance committee to include 4 members: one Staff Rep, one Board Chair, one Treasurer, one Controller. This committee is researching and supporting the Board in making funding decisions to grow the organization, but still maintain enough surplus for a rainy day.

3. Would you mind sharing whether the speakers are being purchased or rented? If they are being purchased, could you please specify the price?

Are you referring to the Speakers line under Project 5: Skills Training Series & Special Events? If so, we are referring to Guest Speakers or Presenters coming in to deliver workshops and training sessions, not physical sound system speakers. Apologies for the confusion in the language. Typical rates for speakers/presenters range from \$200 to \$650 per workshop depending on length and skill-set. As an example, on Monday October 2 2023 we hosted a workshop for McMaster undergraduates on Creating Videos for Social Movements attended by 10 Undergraduate students. The event facilitator was given a \$500.00 honorarium. We will host between 8-10 more workshops this year.

