



MEMO

From the office of the...

Vice-President (Finance)

TO: SRA Members and Committee Chairs
FROM: Declan Sweeney (VP Finance)
SUBJECT: Engineers Without Borders
DATE: November 8th 2024

Dear Members of the Assembly,

One of the greatest responsibilities of this assembly is to ensure that we are providing oversight & transparency on where student money is going. This is most prevalent during two periods this year: Bylaw 9 Review & Budget Preparation. While reviewing Engineers Without Borders, there were some critical issues which made the Finance Committee consider this group's current fee unacceptable & made the recommendation for the fee to be sent to referendum.

These issues were:

1. The transition of financial accounts went over four months of this fiscal year without oversight leading to the possibility of former executives being able to access the account without the current executives having access.
2. The end of one of the key areas of their mandate was the fellowship being put on pause with no current plan for where those funds would be allocated.
3. The selection criteria by the parent group meaning that a McMaster student could not be selected for the marquee trip but the allocation of \$12,500 to the Canadian chapter regardless.
4. The preparation of this group of their budget did not include their actual spending from the previous fiscal year.
5. The issue that when this group went to referendum in 2022-2023 that they have not changed any of the fundamental flaws which led to the previous referendum.

With these issues being listed it is our belief that this group should go to referendum to eliminate this fee as it does not provide value to enhance the student experience for McMaster students.

Kind regards,

Declan Sweeney
Vice-President (Finance)
vpfinance@msu.mcmaster.ca