2018-2019 Funding Report to SSMU Legislative Council

Eva Ren, Funding Commissioner

March 14, 2019

This report aims to give updates, analysis and areas of improvement concerning SSMU Funding and the Funding Committee

Agenda

Current funding process and starting balances

Overview and analysis of funding dispersed

New processes and improvements made this year

Funding Guidebook and Other Recommendations

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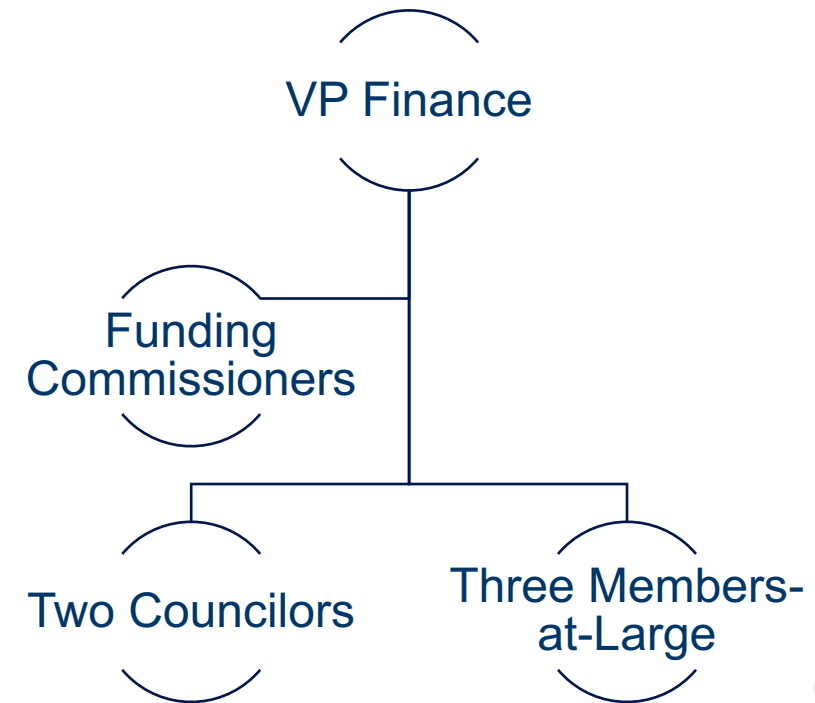Current funding process and starting balances

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Funding Guidebook and Other Recommendations

What's the Funding Committee?

Every year, students pay fees to SSMU, which amounts to $350,000 available to financially assist student groups with their events or initiatives.

VP Finance

Funding Commissioners

Two Councilors

Three Members-at-Large

Funding commissioners have reduced the 4-step funding process this year, resulting in shorter waiting times for students
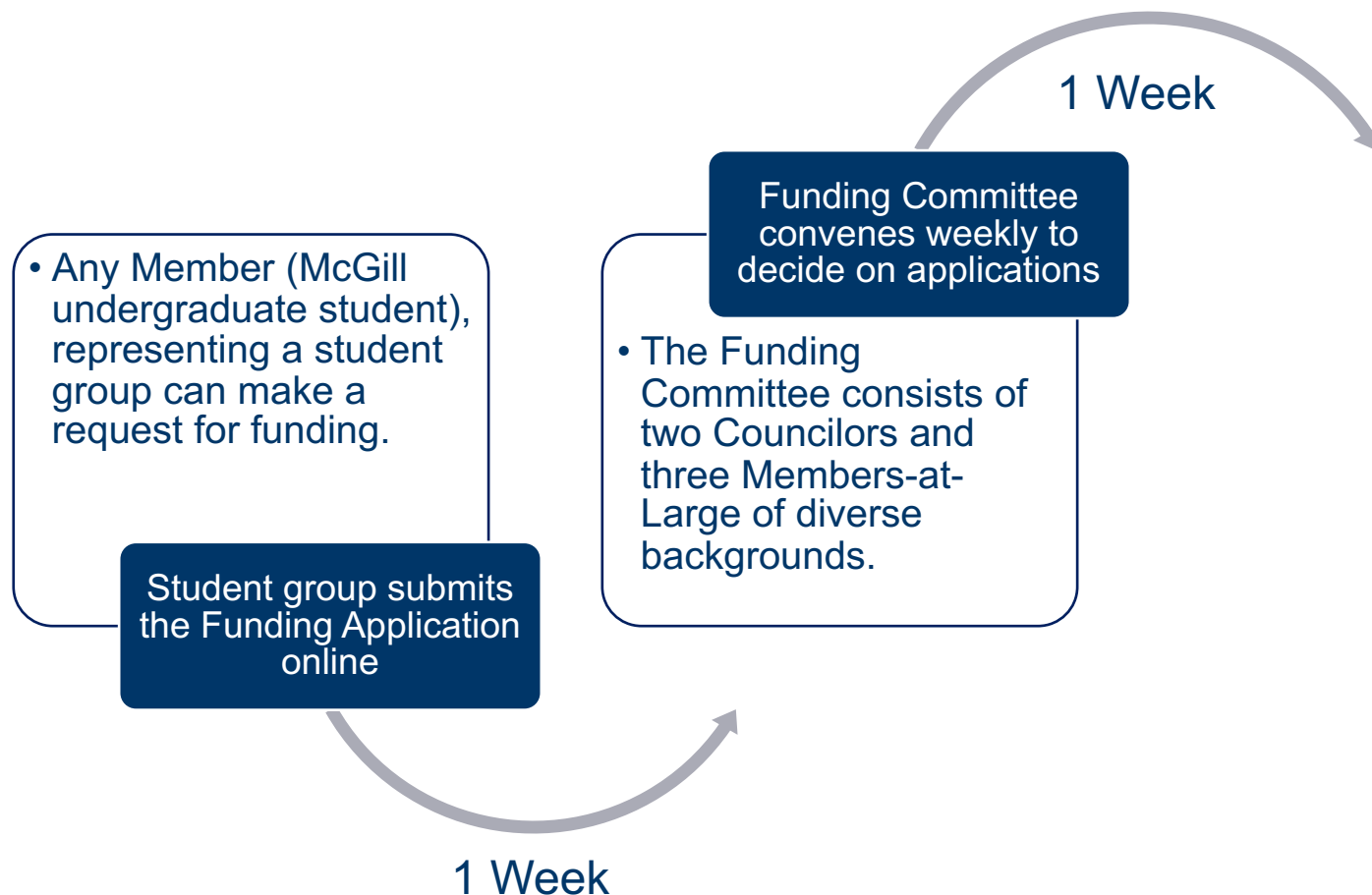
- Any Member (McGill undergraduate student), representing a student group can make a request for funding.

Student group submits the Funding Application online

1 Week

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Funding Committee
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- The Funding
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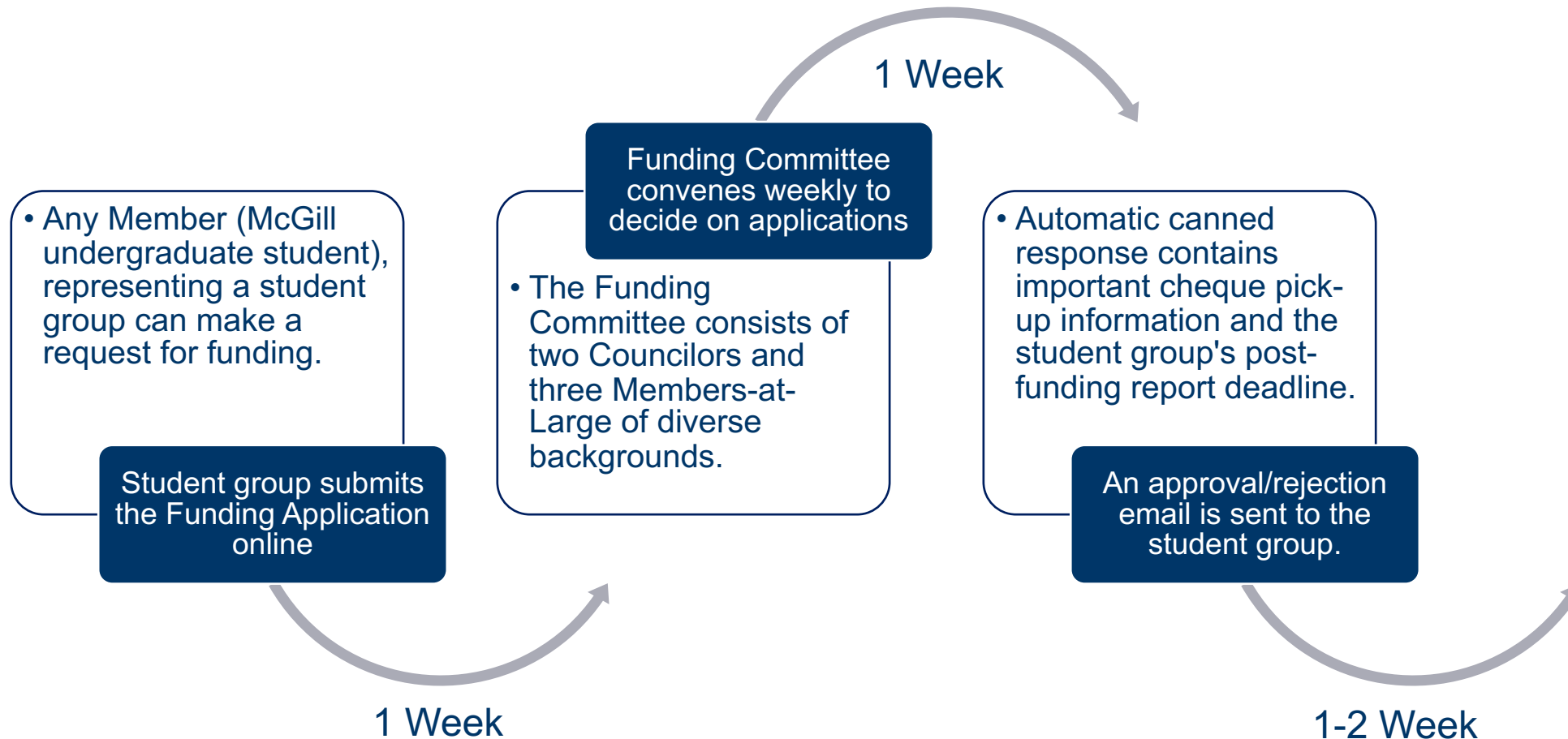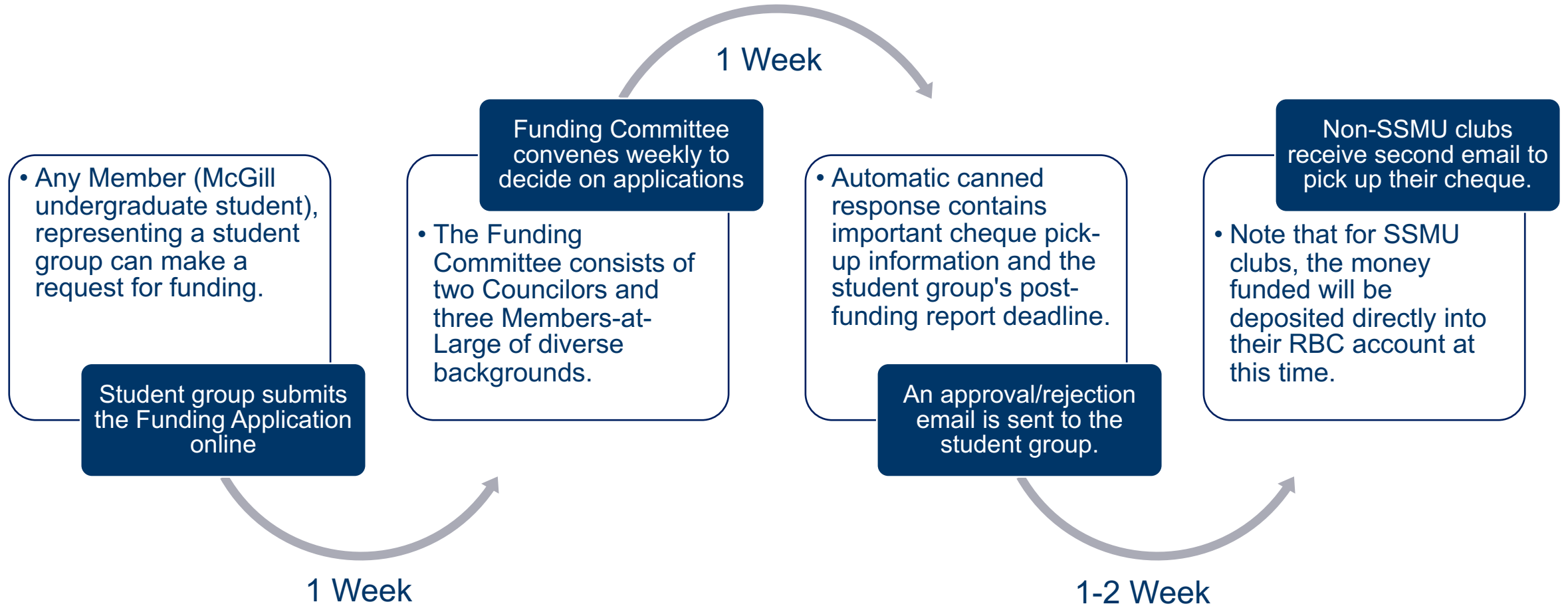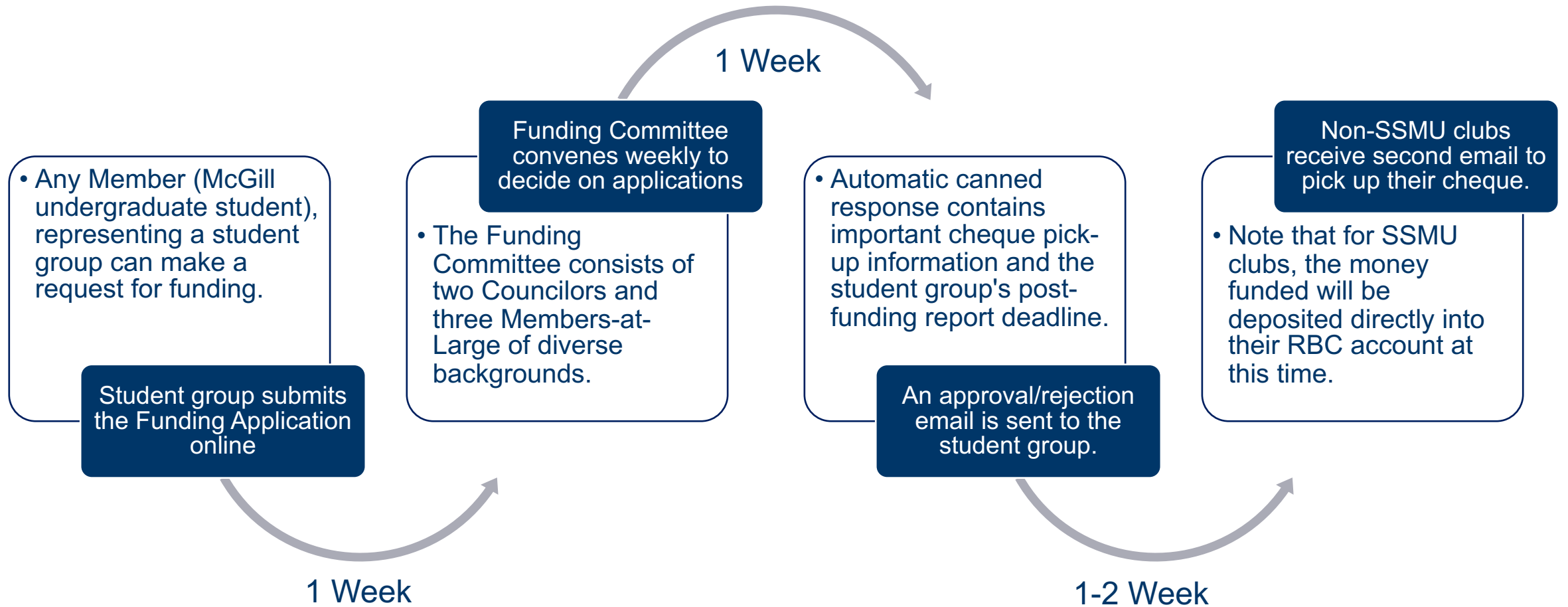Student group submits the Funding Application online

- The Funding Committee consists of two Councilors and three Members-at-Large of diverse backgrounds.

- Automatic canned response contains important cheque pick-up information and the student group's post-funding report deadline.

An approval/rejection email is sent to the student group.

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Groups must then recognize SSMU as an official sponsor in the student group's initiative and submit a **Post-Funding Report** to ensure the funds were used as issued.

SSMU®

SSMU started with and dispersed the following balances and amounts for the fiscal year of 2018-2019 (beginning to today).

Env	Ambass.	Campus Life	Space	Equity	Club	Charity	Mental Health

We should aim to have a net $0 transfer in all Funds. This year, we have dispersed $308,097.02.

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	Env	Ambass.	Campus Life	Space	Equity	Club	Charity	Mental Health
Student Fees*	24,654.76	80,077.04	78,932.40	7,663.27	21,254.28	110,448.94	10,247.58	16,368.24
Previous surplus	53,441.38	40,493.07	65,626.39	12,067.13	4,186.20	18,061.18	36,531.64	15,423.14
Amount Available	78,096.14	120,570.11	144,558.79	19,730.40	25,440.48	128,510.12	46,779.22	31,791.38
Amount Dispersed	27,147.23	102,713.15	86,801.62	7,708.47	15,941.97	51,944.40	9,620.52	6,219.66
Amount Remaining	50,948.91	17,856.96	57,757.17	12,021.93	9,498.51	76,565.72	37,158.70	25,571.72

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Funding applications, which are often done proactively, have an approval rate of 77% and ask on average $2,263.60/initiative
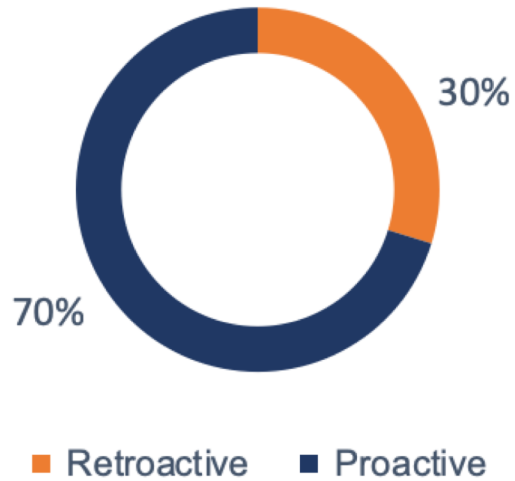
Sample size for analysis: 159 Fall 2018 (30% increase) and 57 Fall 2019 applications show us…
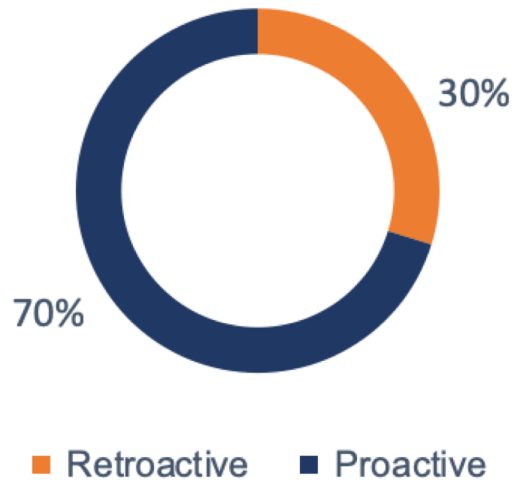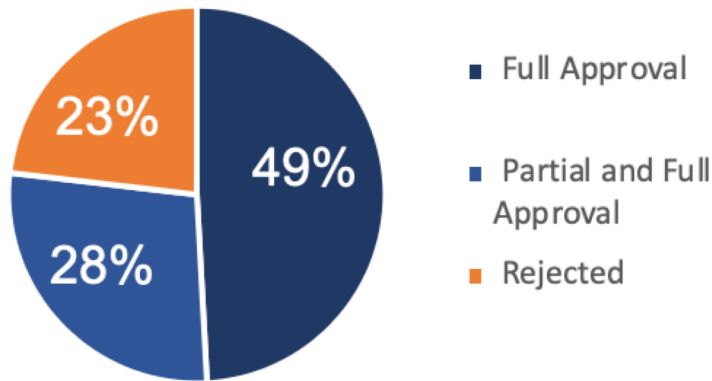
How many retroactive applications?

What is our approval rate?

30%

70%

■ Retroactive   ■ Proactive

23%

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28%

■ Full Approval

■ Partial and Full Approval

■ Rejected

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What are the averages and extremes?

| Amount	
Min. Requested: $15.23	Max. Requested: $14,000.00
Min Approved: $0	Max. Given: $13,796.00
Avg Requested: $2,263.60	Avg Given: $1,426.38

Funds that have sufficient demand are Campus Life, Amb., and Club, whereas the remaining Funds will keep on accumulating yearly surpluses

Amount available vs. given
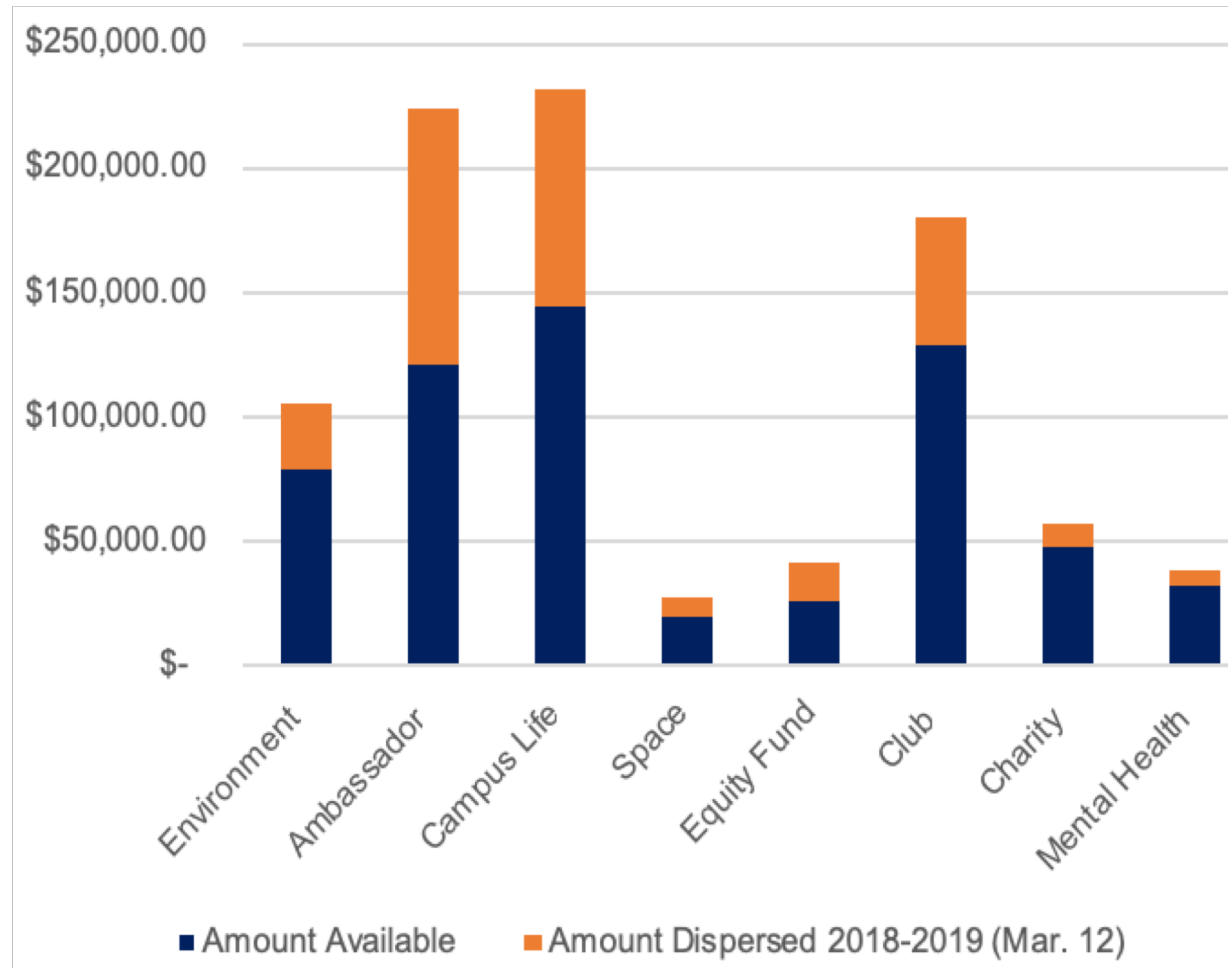
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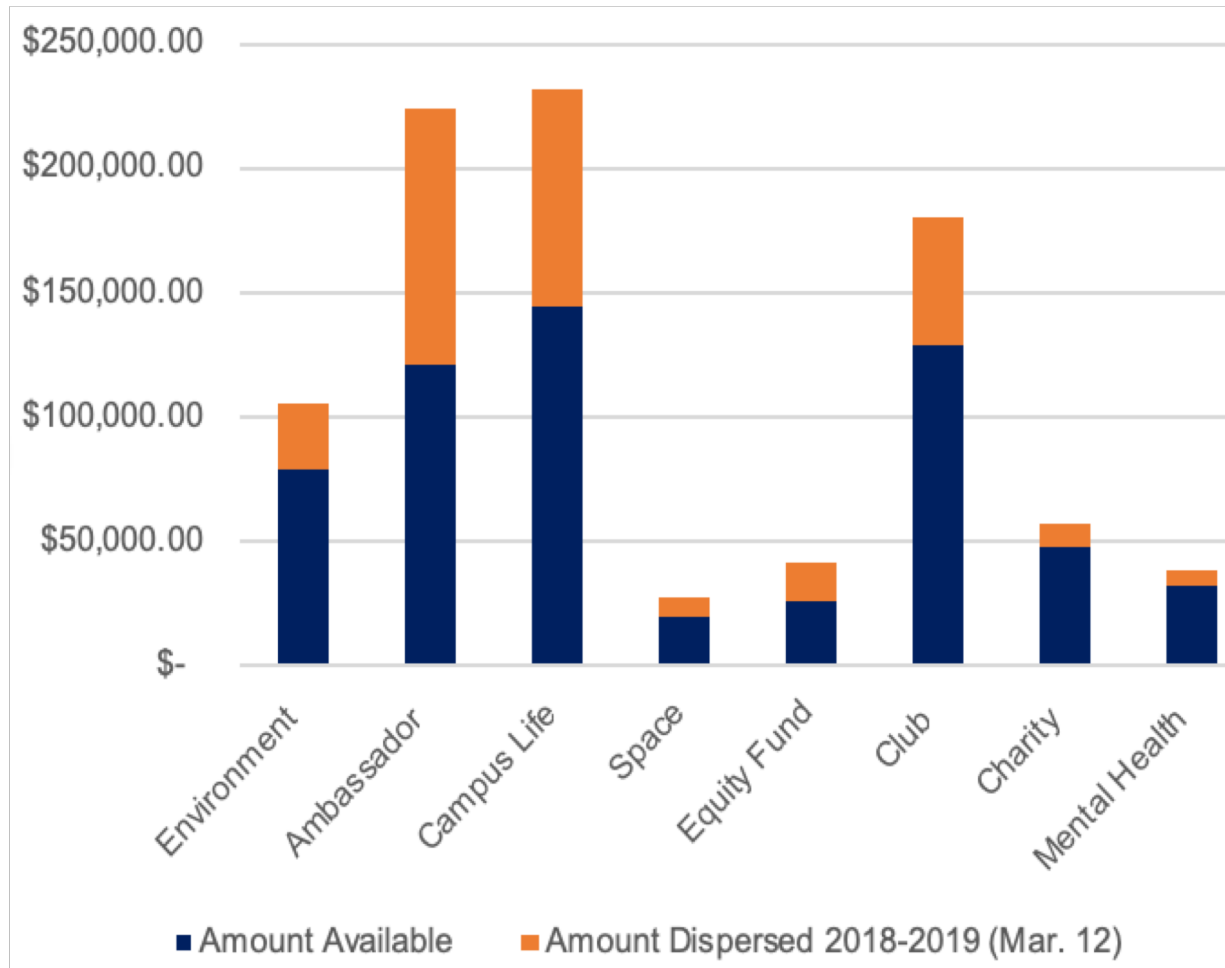
Total number of applications received
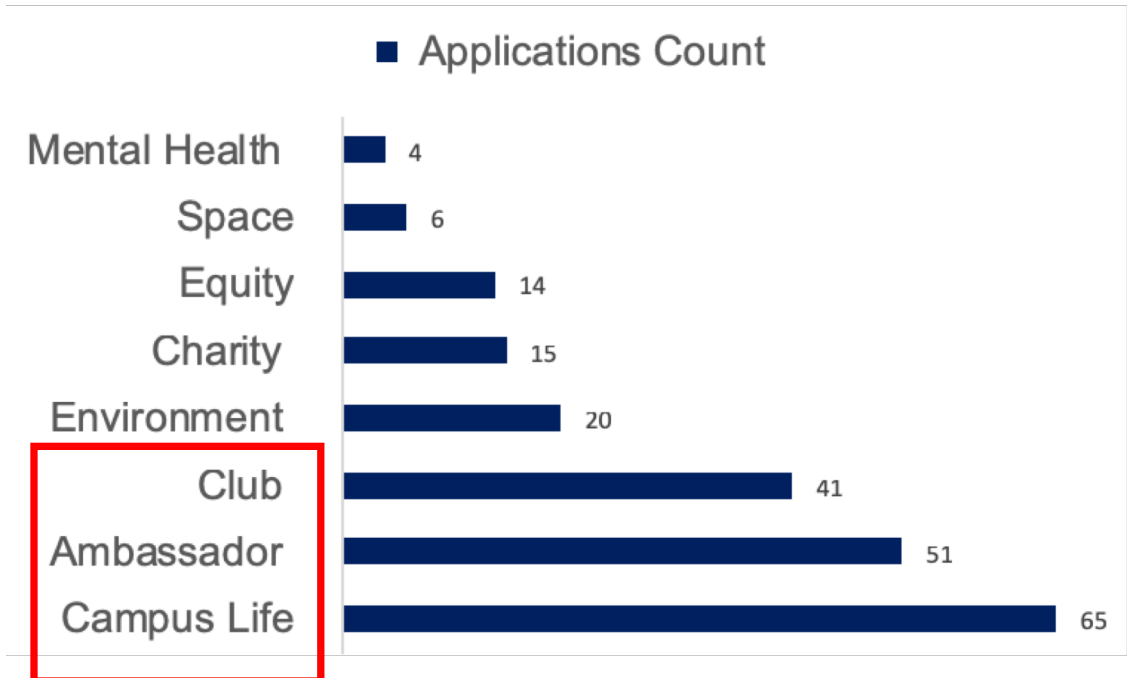
We have more than we give, and some Funds are significantly less utilized than others.

Three major changes to the Funding Committee and decision process were implemented this year to increase funding efficiency

More responsibility for Funding Committee members

- Members are assigned application cases, to be reviewed prior to and to be presented at meetings, increasing member engagement & sense of responsibility

Increase application assessment speed

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Establishing an objective benchmark when reviewing Ambassador Fund applications

- Inconsistencies occur when some budgets include more personal contribution than others, while asking for the same amount.
- Rule of thumb: If possible, personal contribution of 30% (of total trip cost)

Better ensure that some students will not be at a disadvantage if they contribute more out-of-pocket

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Removed strict funding deadlines, as they are unnecessary and irrelevant

- Received more than half of total Fall applications within 48 hours before the Fall funding deadline
- Imposing a deadline implies funding occurs once/term, whereas applications are really reviewed on a rolling basis

➡ Smooth out demand, reducing burden and waiting times

SSMU

The updated Funding Guidebook has been drafted and will be published on the SSMU Funding webpage at end of month

Currently, there is no communication on funding guidelines and restrictions between SSMU and student groups

Past Funding Handbook is extremely out-of-date with false information

There is a need to communicate expectations & requirements to student groups and ease funding process for the Committee

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Scattered information and confusion on guidelines
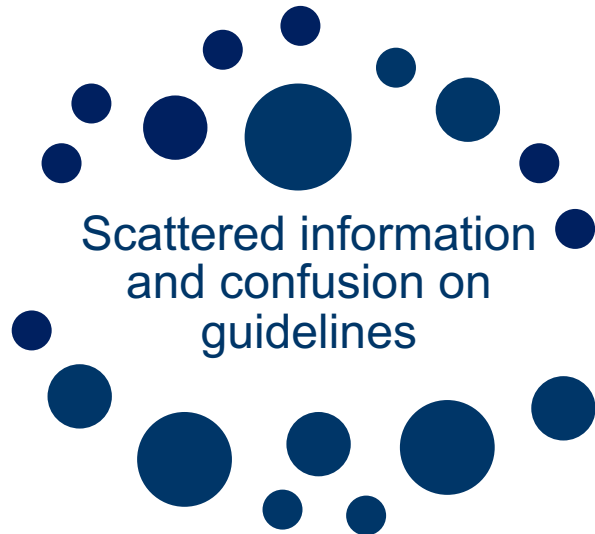
2019 Funding Guidebook ready for March TBD

11-page document about:

- Application Conditions and Timeline Process
- Budgets and Documentation How-To (label, highlight, and reference method for all expenses)
- FAQ

Recommendations for next year include the internal regulations, selective decision criteria, cheque request process, and promotion of Funds

Cheque request follow-up

- Challenge: Funding Committee approves of applications (not responsible for cheque requests and process)

- Opportunity: Establish cheque follow-up system (with accounting personnel, or include a new back-end workflow step)

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Challenge: Funds are carrying over but no other Committee of the Legislative Council or Officer of the Society may allocate funding from these Fees.

Opportunity: Set up table during Activities Night, or print out pamphlets to distribute, work with Env. and Equity Commissioners

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? Funding requirement gray areas (E.g. Can't fund one individual's trip to a conference, but acceptable for two people? $15,000 is too much but three applications from the same group for $5,000 each isn't?)

? When demand > supply, how can the Funding Committee be selective in approving funding applications?

Q & A

Eva Ren, Funding Commissioner

March 14, 2019

Appendix: Formula Electric (EUS), requesting $24,000

"McGill Formula Electric is an Engineering Design Team that designs, builds, and competes a formula-style electric race car every year. We are composed of 160 members from all engineering departments, as well as from the faculty of arts, science, and management. Every fall, we recruit new members to join our team and teach them the background knowledge required to have an impact on the team, all the while working on the design of our upcoming prototype. In the winter, we manufacture our car with the help of all our members to get our car ready for testing and competitions happening over the summer. McGill Formula Electric, as the name implies, designs and builds a **fully electric race car** with the aim of showing that vehicle electrification is the future in both motorsports and commercial vehicles. **This initiative requires the combined effort of over 150 undergraduate students from multiple faculties**, who will all graduate with the skills needed to make the future more sustainable.

The manufacturing of an electric car is not cheap. The battery cells and various electrical components required to make an electric vehicle run in a safe rule compliant manner are very costly. Our team attends multiple events, both on and off campus, where we interact with students, faculty, and sponsors, educating them about the need and potential of green energies. Overall, our aim is to transfer our **passion for sustainable technologies**."

Given: $13,796.00 for 150 students = $93.33/student