

MOTION REGARDING [SSMU Funding for the Conference on Diversity in Engineering 2025]

2025-10-23

Submitted for: 2025-10-23

Submitted to:	SSMU Legislative Council	Document no.:	LEG-PUB-MOT-IDYY-MM-DD-SIN (to be assigned by Steering)
Moved by:	Ben Mitchell <i>Engineering Representative</i>	Current Status:	☐ FOR APPROVAL ☒ APPROVED ☐ POSTPONED ☐ COMMITTED ☐ NOT APPROVED
Seconded by:	Dymetri Taylor <i>SSMU President</i>		

Issue

The Conference on Diversity in Engineering 2025 is a National Conference that invites undergraduate engineering students from across Canada to learn about diversity within the engineering context. They are looking for funding in order to support the conference.

Background and Rationale

The Conference on Diversity in Engineering (CDE) is a 3-day conference bringing together 150-200 delegates from engineering schools across the country, combining formative workshops, networking opportunities, social connections, and transformative conversations aimed at inspiring students to champion Equity, Diversity, Belonging, and Accessibility (EDBA) at their schools and equipping them with the tools to do so.

This year, CDE was working on an extremely reduced timeline compared to other years, due to McGill only winning the bid in January. Normally, conferences such as these have a 2 year planning cycle, but CDE 2025 was only working with a 9 month timeline. As such, an application to the funds have not been feasible until now.

In order to help support the operations and accelerate the planning process, funding needs to be secured

By supporting national conferences such as these, the SSMU demonstrates its commitment to empowering student leadership, fostering inclusivity, and amplifying McGill's presence in national equity-driven initiatives.

Alignment with Mission

This motion aligns with the SSMU's mission of service, representation, and leadership by supporting a national student-led initiative that promotes equity, diversity, and accessibility in higher education. It strengthens student engagement and amplifies McGill's role in inclusive leadership across Canada.

Consultations Completed

Dymetri Taylor, SSMU President

Risk Factors and Resource Implications

The primary risk is financial. The Conference on Diversity in Engineering (CDE) 2025, hosted by the EUS under the CFES.

Because McGill's bid was only approved in January, the team operated on a shortened planning cycle and had limited time to secure sponsorships. The requested \$25,000 from the Campus Life Fund would serve as institutional support for a nationally recognized initiative that aligns with SSMU's mission and values.

Approving this motion presents minimal risk to SSMU while offering strong visibility and impact. Supporting a CFES national conference hosted at McGill for the first time since 2016 reinforces SSMU's leadership in promoting collaboration, equity, and student representation across Canada.

Impact of Decision and Next Steps

If approved, the \$25,000 contribution from the Campus Life Fund will be allocated directly to the EUS to support the execution of the Conference on Diversity in Engineering (CDE) 2025. The funds will be used to finalize outstanding payments related to delegate logistics, accessibility services, and workshop delivery.

The EUS will provide a post-event summary to SSMU outlining how the funds were utilized and the outcomes achieved. This partnership will highlight McGill's and SSMU's shared commitment to fostering national student engagement and advancing equity, diversity, and accessibility in engineering education.

A communication acknowledging SSMU's support will be included in conference materials, social media, and closing remarks to ensure proper recognition.

Motion or Resolution for Approval

Be it resolved that the SSMU approve a contribution of \$25,000 from the Campus Life Fund to support the execution of the Conference on Diversity in Engineering (CDE) 2025, hosted by the EUS.

Be it further resolved that the EUS provide a brief post-event report to the SSMU outlining the allocation of funds and key outcomes of the conference.

Be it further resolved that the SSMU be recognized as a supporting partner in all conference materials, including promotional content, delegate packages, and closing remarks.

Results of the Vote

In favour	(28)
Opposed	(0)
Abstain	(0)

Appendix A : Budget

[CDE 2025 Budget](#)

APPROVED