

THE BIORESOURCE ENGINEERING STUDENT SOCIETY

Spending Proposal for 2020-2021

OVERVIEW

The Bioresource Engineering Student Society (BESS) is working to determine how student funds are going to be allocated this year. In previous years, most of the BESS funds have been spent on supporting the attendance and participation of bioresource students in conferences and participation. A challenge the BESS is currently facing is in providing funding for meaningful student services and opportunities given the extraordinary circumstances surrounding this academic year. The goal to allocate funds collected from student fees in a way that is representative of the bioresource engineering student body remains the same. In this spending proposal we will explore the options of a new funding pool available to students in BREE, the improvement of resources and facilities for the anticipated return of in-person classes, and/or the partial reimbursement of student fees to the student body.

PREVIOUS YEAR SPENDING

In **Fig. 1** we see that the BESS started the 2019-2020 academic year with \$4201.73, saw an income of \$24,543.08, spent \$23,186.74, and ended with \$5558.07. It is important to note that the budget for 2019-2020 extends into the fall of 2020 up to but not including the date in which the 2020-2021 academic year student fees are received.

Refer to **Fig. 2**, **Fig. 3**, **Fig. 4**, and **Fig. 5** for a breakdown and visualization of how the BESS received and allocated funds throughout the year.

In **Fig. 2** and **Fig. 4**, you will see that 81% of the years' funds were spent on competitions and conferences for BREE Students, followed by 8% spent on BESS events, and 6% spent on BREE related student clubs. In **Fig. 3** and **Fig. 5** you can see that McGill student fees made up 41% of our total funding followed by contributions made by CR3 and CREIQ – making up 29% of the accounts funding – to support student participation and attendance. Even with the contributions from CR3 and CREIQ, it is evident that the BESS has allocated the majority of its' students' funds towards the engagement and attendance of students in conferences and competitions.

The question we face now is “how can we allocate student funds in a way that will provide students with services equally as valuable to them as conferences and competitions would have otherwise?” The only real way to answer this question is through engaging with the student body which will be done through surveys and a “town-hall” style meeting taking place November 4, 2020 at 5:00pm EST.

Until then we will explore a few ideas here, proposed by members of the BESS during our weekly meetings, that we encourage the rest of the student body to weigh in on.

IDEA 1: A PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT OF STUDENT FEES

If you look at the account breakdown of 2019-2020, available under **Reference. 1** and always on the public BESS Google drive (**Reference 2.**) you will see that each of the 223 students currently enrolled in BREE paid \$23.00 in student fees totaling \$5129.00 of this year's funding. \$15.00 of each \$23.00 student fee is reserved for BREE related clubs such as Mutrac or the Mac Robotics Club. In the event that students aren't interested in receiving alternative services to those available in previous years a partial reimbursement of student fees will be explored ensuring that clubs that are still operating will still have access to funds reserved for them. Keeping in mind, BESS is one of a few funding sources of these clubs.

IDEA 2: IMPROVEMENT OF RESOURCES AND FACILITIES FOR RETURN OF BREE STUDENTS TO MAC

In a meeting with Dr. Adamchuk, Professor and Chair of the Bioresource Engineering Department, the possibility of making improvements to the BREE student lounge was explored. It would be a good opportunity to turn the lounge into a functional workspace catering more to the needs of engineering students at Mac Campus. The ideas explored included the implementation of workstations equipped with high enough "specs" to operate advanced engineering programs with licenses for the programs included. The potential to reorganize the space or move it all together came into discussion as well. Though the project was supported by Dr. Adamchuk and he identified the potential for extra funding to carry it out, issues surrounding the implementation arose; specifically surrounding the uncertainty of when students will return to campus. It would be impossible to provide a date that students supplying the funding for BESS through student fees would see the proposed improvements.

IDEA 3: A BREE INNOVATION & DEVELOPMENT FUND

The BESS council has heard from various students in "Capstone" Design 2 and Design 3 (BREE 490 and BREE 495) that accessing funding or even implementation opportunities for their projects has been particularly difficult provided the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. With an estimated 30% of the BREE student body in these courses the BESS has identified an opportunity to allocate funds in a way that directly benefits its students. The BESS proposes a "weighted" allocation of funds to student teams in these Design courses that is representative of last years' spending on conferences and competition and the number of students enrolled in the courses this year, respectively. We currently estimate that a fund of \$2,900.00 can be made available to students specifically enrolled in the Design courses in which they could apply for funding based on their projected requirements. Furthermore, a general BREE Innovation and Development fund of approximately \$5000.00 can be made available to students across the program – regardless of their year or the courses they are currently enrolled in – to facilitate personal (BREE related) projects or professional development opportunities.

CONCLUSION

The ideas presented to you in this proposal are just that – ideas! And what the BESS really needs to accurately represent the interests of its’ student body is to hear from it. We invite every member of the Bioresource Engineering Student Body to weigh in on the ideas presented in the proposal and identify opportunities or services that you would like to see made available.

APPENDIX

Reference 1. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pF83fZy9OWLWovoBo9U5W-192wmjmNSe/view?usp=sharing>

Reference 2. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1blcF2ahNtjrD9tL2Kj876aHTiD64Df2g?usp=sharing>

Total Start	\$ 4,201.73
Total In	\$24,543.08
Total Out	-\$23,186.74
Total End	\$ 5,558.07

Fig. 1. An overview of the 2019-2020 BESS Account.

Competitions and Conferences	-\$18,849.73	81%
BESS Admin Expenses	-\$ 479.31	2%
BESS Events	-\$ 1,931.80	8%
BESS Club Funding	-\$ 1,500.00	6%
Membership Fees	-\$ 115.35	0%
Other	-\$ 310.55	1%
Sum	-\$ 23,186.74	100 %

Fig. 2. A snapshot of the 2019-2020 BESS Account Expenses.

McGill Fees	\$10,066.40	41%
Events In	\$ 1,303.79	5%
CR3/CREIQ Payments	\$ 7,165.53	29%
BESS Contribution	\$ 2,000.00	8%
Sweaters	\$ 1,257.36	5%
Other	\$ 2,750.00	11%
Sum	\$ 24,543.08	100 %

Fig. 3. A snapshot of the 2019-2020 BESS Account Funding.

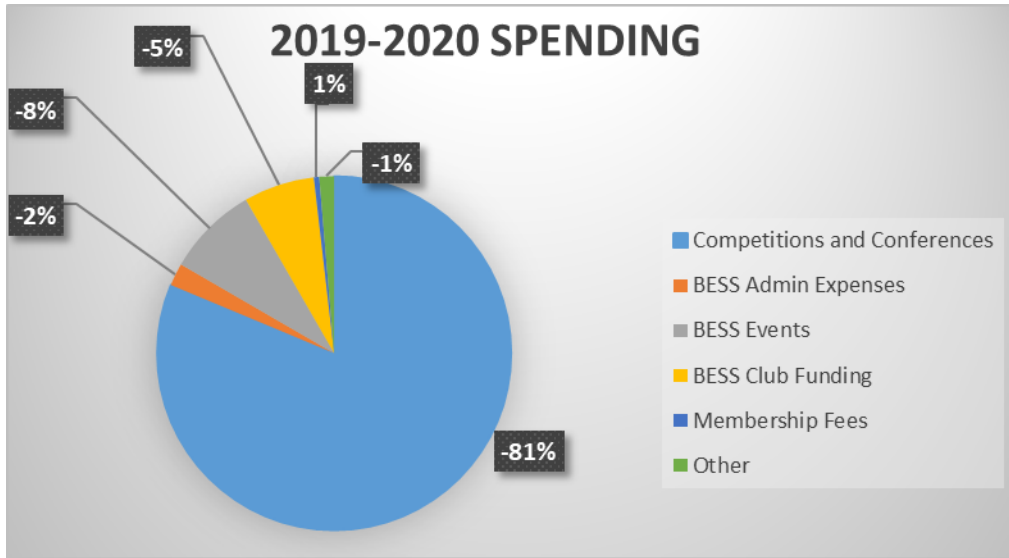


Fig. 4. A visualization of the data in fig. 2.

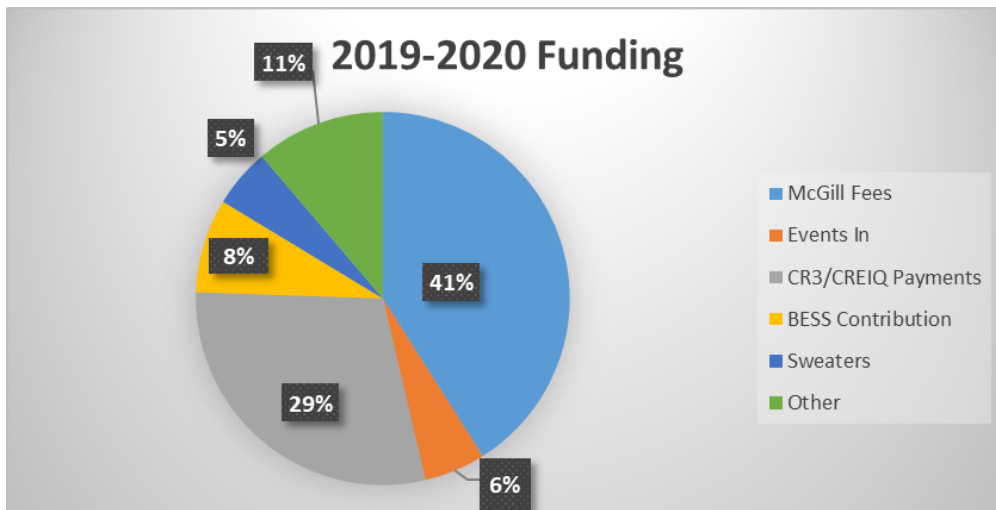


Fig. 5. A visualization of the data in fig. 3.

Sections	n/a	2020-2021 Estimate	2020-2021 Actual
	Start of year account balance	\$ 8,127.61	\$ 5,558.07
Fall Fees	Fall Student Life Fund	\$ 1,808.00	\$ 1,784.00
	BREE Fall Student Fees	\$ 2,685.60	\$ 2,658.00
	BREE Club Fees	\$ 671.40	\$ 669.00
Winter Fees	Winter Student Life Fund	\$ 1,479.01	
	BREE winter Student Fees	\$ 2,218.60	
	BREE Club Fees	\$ 554.70	
Total Student Fees and		\$ 10,519.04	\$ 10,669.07
President			
Memberships	<i>Revenues</i>	\$ -	
	<i>Expenses</i>	-\$ 211.35	
	<i>Net</i>	-\$ 211.35	
VP Internal			
Integration	<i>Revenues</i>	\$ -	
	<i>Expenses</i>	-\$ 742.79	-\$ 15.00
	<i>Net</i>	-\$ 742.79	-\$ 15.00
Mactoberfest	<i>Revenues</i>	\$ 820.00	
	<i>Expenses</i>	-\$ 862.75	\$ -
	<i>Net</i>	-\$ 42.75	\$ -
Fundraisers	<i>Revenues</i>	\$ 344.30	\$ -
	<i>Expenses</i>	-\$ 95.42	\$ -

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	<i>Expenses</i>	-\$ 95.42	\$ -

Website	<i>Revenues</i>	\$	-
	<i>Expenses</i>	\$	319.24
	<i>Net</i>	\$	319.24
VP University Affairs			
Networking	<i>Revenues</i>	\$	-
	<i>Expenses</i>	-\$	19.98
	<i>Net</i>	-\$	19.98
VP Industry Affairs			
Sponsorship	<i>Revenues</i>	\$	-
	<i>Expenses</i>	-\$	14.80
	<i>Net</i>	-\$	14.80
VP Finance			
Club Funding	<i>Revenues</i>	\$	-
	<i>Expenses</i>	-\$	1,500.00
	<i>Net</i>	-\$	1,500.00
Other Expenses			
Miscellaneous	<i>Revenues</i>	\$	-
	<i>Expenses</i>	\$	-
	<i>Net</i>	\$	-
Meetings	<i>Revenues</i>	\$	-
	<i>Expenses</i>	\$	-

	<i>Net</i>	\$	-	
Year Total	Revenues	\$	15,143.34	
	Expenses	-\$	7,015.73	
	End of Year Balance	\$	8,127.61	